John Hampden Randolph, A Southern Planter

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Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College

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JOHN HAMPDEN RANDOLPH,
A SOUTHERN PLANTER

A THESIS
Submitted to the Faculty
of the
Louisiana State University
and
Agricultural and Mechanical College

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JOHN HAMPDEN RANDOLPH,
A SOUTHERN PLANTER

A THESIS

Submitted to the Faculty
of the
Louisiana State University
and
Agricultural and Mechanical College

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements For
The Degree of Master of Arts

In
History

By

PAUL EVERETT POSTELL

Baton Rouge, Louisiana
1936
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The writer wishes to express thanks to Dr. Wendell Holmes Stephenson for the help given in making this undertaking a reality. He also acknowledges and thanks his wife for the valuable assistance rendered in revising proofs and for giving constructive criticism from time to time, and to his sister, Miss Frances Mildred Postell, for help in taking notes and reading proofs.
The unearthing of material formerly stored in attics, outhouses, and cellars of ante-bellum homes by historians and librarians in the South has thrown a new light on the economic and social life of that agricultural region. Such sources as cotton record books, crop reports, diaries, expense books, land purchases and sales, co-partnership agreements, and correspondence have aroused a keen interest among students of history. From these sources new studies are being made, which to a large extent are helping to break down certain existing theories concerning the Old South, so many of which theories are recorded in the general published histories.

All such records which have been exumed were kept by the owners of plantations; these latter representing a type of agricultural unit of the ante-bellum South. Many of them are legible and others illegible, or partly so, but in all cases give a true and lasting picture of the plantation system as it was, and all are a contribution to the social and economic history of the region.

Ulrich B. Phillips and James D. Glunt have much to say about the historical study of plantations from the original sources:

The historical study of plantations has just begun, and all generalizations concerning them must be in a measure
tentative until many more of their actual records have been made available. Among the things of which least is known are the details of organization, supervision, and performance of labor, and the manner in which vicissitudes and emergencies were met. Plantation records are highly diverse in scope and quality and in the promptings which caused them to be written. They include advertisements of estates for sale, or of rewards for the return of runaway slaves, statements of commercial account, court records, letters whether to private persons or the public prints, instructions, and other memoranda, reports, diaries and journals.  

By the use of such original sources this study is an attempt to follow the career of one man in his pursuits as a planter. John Hampden Randolph, a native of Virginia, started his life as a cotton farmer in Wilkinson County, Mississippi, and later moved to Iberville Parish, Louisiana where he took up the work of a sugar planter, at which work he remained until his death in 1863. 

Perhaps the study would be much more interesting and readable if there were more material available to throw light on the personal traits and characteristics of the planter, as well as on events of interest in his life. Due to this fact much about the character and personal facts in the life of Randolph, his ancestors and descendants will necessarily be deducted from material given or omitted entirely.

Most of the thesis is concerned with the plantation as an economic structure of the agricultural region. Such things as the financial transactions including sales and

1 Ulrich B. Phillips and James D. Glunt, Florida Plantation Records, From the Papers of George Noble Jones (St. Louis, 1927), 3-4.
In 1858 Randolph built a beautiful mansion on his plantation in Iberville Parish and named it "Nottoway" after the county in Virginia from which we are told the Randolphs came. This stately structure still stands, and has recently been called by a writer in Holland's Magazine, "one of America's most beautiful country homes of the ante-bellum type." Nottoway is between the towns of Bayou Goula and White Castle, not far from the Mississippi River, and at the present time is owned by Doctor Whyte G. Owen who resides there with his family. Quite necessarily a word concerning the construction of the house, and a description of it, cannot be left out.

The records are most plentiful for the years 1840 to 1870, with stress on the period preceding the Civil War. Like many other Southern planters, Randolph was not very successful in a pecuniary way, during and after the War, but he held on to his land and continued to be a prominent Louisiana farmer until the time of his death.
The materials used in the writing of this thesis are of a varied sort. They are principally original sources -- papers collected by Randolph and his descendants, which include private correspondence, inventories, cotton record books, crop reports, expense books, diaries, bank accounts, deeds of purchase and sales, and various other similar manuscripts dealing with his business affairs. These papers are in the possession of the Louisiana State University Library, Archives Department, and are cited throughout the study as the "Randolph Collection." Other sources used are parish and county conveyance records, newspapers, official government documents, pamphlets, periodicals, interviews with members of the family, and the general published sources.
CHAPTER I

THE RANDOLPHS ESTABLISH THEMSELVES IN THE NEW SOUTHWEST
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Throughout the history of the United States the student is constantly confronted with a westward movement which started almost from the time that the earliest settlers set foot upon the eastern seaboard. In the latter part of the eighteenth and early part of the nineteenth centuries this movement became more general and was very apparent in the South, especially so after the opening of the Alabama-Mississippi region for settlement. This region experienced a rapid growth in population in the decades preceding the Civil War. The population of the area which now comprises these two states rose in round numbers from 40,000 in 1810 to 200,000 in 1820, 445,000 in 1830, 965,000 in 1840, 1,375,000 in 1850 and 1,660,000 in 1860, and the proportion of slaves increased from forty to forty-seven percent. This growth was accompanied by a corresponding growth in the output of cotton for the period. From Alabama and Tennessee westward the increase in the per cent of the whole country's cotton output was as follows: one sixteenth in 1811, one third in 1820, one half before 1830, nearly two thirds in 1840 and quite three fourths in 1861.¹

Many individual reasons may be attributed to this westward migration, but without doubt the primary one was to take up new

lands after the old ones had been worn out from lack of crop rotation. Much of this new land was cheap, very suitable for cultivation, and extremely easy to acquire (if we might judge by conditions as they exist today). Other reasons, or in some cases, excuses for migration, were the desire for a change of climate or the ambition to continue a profession in a new country.

The people of the eastern seaboard states were much concerned over this westward migration, and wished to curtail it or stop it altogether. An extract from an article printed in the Lynchburg Virginian, September 27, 1832, is expressive of the viewpoint of the leading citizens of the East on this question:

The constant emigration to the great West of our most substantial citizens, the bone and sinew of the country, and the declension of our business which is the daily subject of complaint among our mercantile men and of which our naked streets and untenanted houses are such emphatic evidence -- admonish us that something must be done to impede our downward course.

One of the two most attractive areas for settlement in the Southwest was a tract which extended along both sides of the Mississippi River from northern Tennessee and Arkansas to the mouth of the Red River. This area was comprised of broad alluvial bottoms and occasional hill districts of rich loam. The settlers were especially attracted by the hill districts lying about Natchez and Vicksburg which was called the Natchez District. There were few white settlers in this region until the founding of Fort Rosalie at Natchez in 1716. Before that time the District was

2 Ulrich B. Phillips, Life and Labor in the Old South (Boston, 1930), 104-106.
the undisputed possession of the Choctaw and the Chickasaw Indians. After 1716 the population increased slowly until the British came into possession in 1763, from which time the increase was rapid.

An inducement which loomed large in the eyes of the settlers in and around Natchez was the nature of the soil. The lands on either bank of the Mississippi River were exceedingly fertile. From the seaboard came persons of means bringing with them their slaves and other properties. As the rich lands were cleared and the planters prospered, more slaves were brought in and more lands were cleared. The two principal sources of slaves were from the Atlantic coast and from the West Indies through the ports of Pensacola and of New Orleans.\(^5\)

The soil of the Natchez\(^6\) was in the early part of the nineteenth century very rich and was valued highly. Some of the choice lands about the town of Natchez sold for as much as twenty dollars per acre. It was a common thing for planters to own as many\(^a\) hundred slaves, and some had as many as 300. Slaves sold for $500, and those with extraordinary qualifications were worth $600 to $900.\(^6\)

Natchez, the principal town of the District, was situated on a high bluff on the east bank of the Mississippi River. In 1810, it contained about 300 houses and approximately 2500 inhabitants, including Negroes. The cultivation of cotton in

\(^5\) Mississippi Historical Society, *Publications* (Jackson), XI (1910), 72-82.

this district early became the chief farming industry. Many citizens of Natchez turned their attention to the cultivation and preparing of that article for exportation. As early as 1806, some planters valued their crop at $40,000, and many of such plantations yielded from $5000 to $20,000 per year.

For a number of years the cultivation of indigo was tried in this area as well as in the adjoining territory, now the state of Louisiana. However, the indigo caused a high death rate among the slaves employed in its culture, and after a time this experiment was gradually abandoned.7

The Natchez District and Wilkinson County, Mississippi, have a common history in that the County was carved out of the District. Wilkinson County was established January 30, 1802, during the administration of Governor William C.C. Claiborne, being the fifth county to be formed in the new territory. It derived its name from that of General James Wilkinson, who was in command of the United States troops during the early territorial era of Mississippi. The county was created by an act of the General Assembly which divided the county of Adams into two parts, one of which became Wilkinson. As then defined Wilkinson had an area of about seventeen townships, or 667 square miles. In 1810 it had a population of 5068 according to the United States census report of that year and in 1837, nearly 13,000.

The county courts were first held at Fort Adams, then at

7 Thomas Ashe, Travels in America Performed in the Year 1806 for the Purpose of Exploring the River Alleghany, Monogahela, Ohio and Mississippi... (London, 1809), 287-90.
Pinckneyville, but shortly afterwards were moved to Woodville which was incorporated in 1811. Woodville has remained the county seat until the present day. About 1816, Wilkinson County had an area of only some 612-square miles and Adams County contained only 414, but Adams County had a larger population due to the sizable city of Natchez.

Among the migrants who came west was Judge Peter Randolph of Lunenburg County, Virginia, who came to Mississippi in 1819. He was born in Virginia in 1780, a descendant of Colonel William Randolph I, the progenitor of the family in

8 The county of Adams shall be divided as follows, to wit: Beginning on river Mississippi at the mouth of the Homochitto river, thence running up the Homochitto river to Richards thence by a line running east to the western boundary of Washington county; and all that tract of county south of the above described boundary, to the line of demarcation, shall compose a county, which shall be called Wilkinson. June 29, 1822 the river Homochitto was declared to be the dividing line between the counties of Wilkinson, from its mouth to its intersection with the basis meridian line, and from thence the said river was made the line of demarcation between the counties of Wilkinson and Franklin, as far as the mouth of Foster's Creek. In 1846 the northern channel of Homochitto where it forms an island below lower or western Natchez and Woodville road was declared to be the boundary between Wilkinson and Adams, and Yanzy Island was embraced within the limits of Wilkinson. Dunbar Roiland, History of Mississippi, The Heart of the South, 2 vols. (Jackson, 1925), II, 855-58.

9 William Darby, A Geographical Description of the State of Louisiana, the Southern Part of the State of Mississippi, and the Territory of Alabama (New York, 1817), 305-306.
America. William Randolph I, who came to Virginia in 1673, was a nephew of Thomas Randolph, one of the group of poets adopted by the famous Ben Jonson as his "sons." William lived some thirty-seven or eight years in Virginia and became clerk and speaker of the House of Burgesses, being appointed clerk of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances, April 22, 1683 and later elected Speaker on September 30, 1698. He was a successful planter and ship-owner, and built up an estate at Turkey Island. He had nine children, seven boys and two girls, "and in process of time the descendents of their children spread over Southside Virginia almost as thickly as young pines sown by the winds do over one of its broom sedge fields." Among the descendents of William Randolph I were such famous men in American history as Thomas Jefferson, John Marshall, Robert E. Lee, John Randolph of Roanoke, and innumerable others whose names alone would fill pages. A biographer of John Randolph wrote:

In the last days of colonial history, the Randolphs were numerous and powerful, a family such as no one in Virginia would wish to offend; and if they were proud of their position and importance who could fairly blame them? There was even a Randolph of Wilton, another of Chatsworth, as though they wished to rival Pembrokes and Devonshires. There was a knight in the family of old Sir John, six sons of William of Turkey Island and father of Peyton Randolph, who was afterwards president of the American Congress. There were

11 Virginia, Journals of the House of Burgesses, 1659/60-1693 (Richmond, 1914), 164.
12 Virginia, Journals of the House of Burgesses, 1695-97, 1701-02 (Richmond, 1913), 120.
13 Bruce, John Randolph of Roanoke, 9-15.
members of the Council and the House of Burgesses, and in-
numerable lists of blood relations and a score of allied
families, among the rest that of Jefferson. Finally the
King's Attorney General was at this time a Randolph. 14

As the descendants of William Randolph I of Turkey Is-
land multiplied and spread far and wide over Virginia and
later over the whole country, it is extremely difficult to
trace correctly, from available sources, the direct line from
William down to John Hampden Randolph, the sugar planter of
Louisiana. There was a Peter Randolph I, grandson of the first
William and a son of the second, who became clerk of the House
of Burgesses of Virginia on May 22, 1740, 15 and the King's At-
torney General. One source says that this Peter had three sons
who became Cavalry officers in the Revolutionary War. Richard,
the son of Robert, also became an officer of cavalry in the Re-
volution. Judge Peter Randolph of Lunenburg County, who came
to Mississippi in 1819 was the son of the above Richard. 16 An-
other source states that a Henry Randolph, a direct descendant
of William I of Turkey Island had six sons whose names were
Henry, William, Peter, Thomas, Robert, and Richard and that
Peter, Robert and Richard were cavalry officers in the Revolu-
tionary War. The following account taken from an account of
the history of the Randolph family and taken "from old letters
and family knowledge," shows that the latter case leads to a

14 Henry Adams, John Randolph (Boston, 1889), 3-4.
15 Virginia, Journal of the House of Burgesses, 1736-40
(Richmond, 1910), 391.
16 P.R. Randolph to John H. Randolph, April 10, 1877, concerning
genealogy of the Randolph family, in John Hampden Randolph
Collection. This collection is in the possession of the Louisiana
State University Archives. They were preserved by the Descendants
of J.H. Randolph and were added to the Louisiana State University
Library by Dr. W.H. Stephenson, professor of history and by Mr. J.
A. McMillen, librarian. The collection is cited hereafter as the
"Randolph Collection."
more accurate degree of correctness. It states, "Colonel Peter Randolph (third son of the above Henry) born about 1750, married Sarah Greenhill of Virginia (first cousin of Martha Dandridge Custis Washington, wife of George Washington, president of the United States — according to cousin Sallie Fort) lived in Nottoway County, Virginia. She (Sarah Greenhill) died April 24, 1830, aged sixty-nine. Peter died in Georgia. They had the following issue: I. Peter; II. Sallie G. (who married Wm. Yates)."

The last mentioned Peter was the one who came to Mississippi in 1819. Before he came to Mississippi he was Judge of the Virginia Court of Appeals. After his migration to Mississippi with his family and all his slaves, he settled near Woodville.17

After moving to Mississippi Judge Peter Randolph practiced law in partnership with Judge Harry Cage of that state. When Mississippi was admitted into the Union in 1819 the distinctive state courts were organized and with them the United States courts with judges appointed to preside over them. In Wilkinson County such a Federal court was established and a circuit judge was appointed. The first presiding judge was William B. Shields who held office from 1818 to 1824. He was succeeded by Judge Peter Randolph, an appointee of President Andrew Jackson, who held office until his death in 1832.18 Judge Randolph was given a temporary commission, June 25, 1823 and a permanent one, December 9, 1823.19 Due to the practice of law with Judge Cage and

18 Mississippi Historical Society Publications II (1899), 152.
19 Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi (Chicago, 1891), I, 130.
to his professional duties as judge, Randolph established a name for himself in the state as a member of the bar, "and his opinions on legal questions carried great weight."  

Randolph was married twice, first to Miss Sallie Cocke of Virginia, then to Miss Percy of Mississippi. By his first wife he had six children, Algernon Sidney, Sallie Anne, Augusta, John Hampden, Julianna, and Cornelia. By his second wife he had a son named Peter who studied medicine and practiced his profession for a long time in East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana.

John Hampden Randolph was born in Lunenburg County, Virginia, on March 24, 1813, where he spent part of his childhood. He was only six years old when he came to Mississippi with his father and mother and the rest of the family. Little is known about his life in Virginia or of his boyhood days in Mississippi. His mother died when he was only eleven. Very little mention is made of her.

Doctor Peter Randolph of East Baton Rouge Parish, in a letter to Mrs. Cornelia Randolph Murrell stated that pieces of the uniform and sword used by his grandfather (Peter) in the Revolutionary War were still in the possession of his descendants. He wrote, "My grandfather was Peter Randolph, a Colonel of a regiment of cavalry in the old Revolutionary War, whose sword is still in possession of your mother (Emily Jane Randolph)."

20 Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Louisiana II, 329.
21 Murrell, "History of the Randolph Family."
22 Obituary of John H. Randolph, September 8, 1883, MSS. in Randolph Collection.
My father (Judge Peter) had the old uniform for a long while, and he used to make your father (John Hampden), when he was large enough, to dress up in it to remind him vividly of his father. My grandfather's two brothers, Robert and Richard, were also cavalry officers in that war.  

At the time that Judge Randolph settled in Wilkinson County there were few educational opportunities in the district for his sons. Woodville, which had been incorporated in 1811, was a very small settlement, and even at the present time has a scant population of a thousand souls. The population of the whole county of Wilkinson in 1810 was only 5068 and a great part of this number were slaves.

The closest school was Jefferson College established at Washington, Mississippi, which is a short distance from Natchez. There is a probability that Randolph attended that school. Sometime in the 1820's he did attend the private school of Mrs. John James Audubon, the wife of the naturalist, on the Thomas Percy estate in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana.

Robert Percy, formerly an officer in the British navy, came to America in 1796. He bought a plantation called "Weyanoke" on Bayou Sara, some fifteen miles from St. Francisville. On this plantation, Mrs. Audubon established her school called "Beechwoods" not only for the benefit of the Percy boys and girls but also for a limited number of children.

23 Murrell, "History of the Randolph Family."
25 Interview with Mrs. H.E. Upton of New Orleans, daughter of John H. Randolph, July, 1925.
of their wealthy neighbors. At this time St. Francisville, in
West Feliciana Parish, was at the height of its prosperity and
its population was perhaps greater than it is at the present
time. This accounts in a great measure for the success of Mrs.
Audubon’s school.26

With courage and fortitude she took upon her shoulders
virtually the entire responsibility of supporting herself and
her children, and carried their burden for years, in order
that her husband might be free to continue his ornithological
studies, and so successful was she that eventually she was e
earning close to three thousand dollars a year - and that, it
should be remembered was in the 1820's not the 1920's! And
when the time came it was Lucy Bakewell Audubon who provided
the big part of the fund needed to launch John James Audubon
upon his epochal undertaking.27

Little is known of Randolph’s subsequent education.

Judge Peter Randolph died in 1832. The executors of his
last will and testament were William C. Ventress, John Hampden
Randolph, Richard T. Archer, and Algernon Sidney Randolph, all
of Wilkinson County. In his will, Judge Randolph authorized
his wife and his executors, as they agreed, to sell or other-
wise dispose of the plantation which at that time was called
"Feeling Slave Plantation" but was later called "Elmridge"28
This plantation was sold to William Stewart on March 26, 1833,
by his wife, Elizabeth Randolph, who had moved to Natchez af-
ter his death.

Stewart paid $7450 for this property consisting of 745
acres all of which was located on Bayou Sara. A certain
small tract of land in the plantation was retained to serve

26 Francis H. Herrick, Audubon, the Naturalist (New York,
1917), 319-23.
27 Edward A. Muschamp, Audacious Audubon (New York, 1929),
146-47.
28 Murrell, "History of the Randolph Family."
as a burial ground for the heirs, children, or descendants of Peter Randolph. Judge Peter, his wife Sallie, his mother Sarah Greenhil Randolph, his sister, Mrs. Wm. Yates and her husband, his daughter Cornelia Randolph Thornton, and her two sons Charles and Algernon Sidney Thornton, were buried in this plot.

A supposition is well evidenced that Peter Randolph gave a certain amount of his land holdings to his sons before his death. His eldest son, Algernon Sidney, owned land in

29 A tract situated in the county aforesaid on the waters of Bayou Sara adjoining the Sligo tract the line whereof beginning at a Magnolia on Lovelace corner, runs thence North 1914 perches (rods) to Holly, thence west 348 perches to a white oak, thence south 1805 perches to a white stake. Thence east 61 perches to a beach on a corner of the Sligo tract, thence south with the line of said tract 151 perches, thence south 35°30' east 106 perches to a stake thence east 1125 perches to a white oak, thence north 229 perches to a corner near an old gin, thence east 114 perches to the beginning, containing 658 acres more or less. Also a tract adjoining the above including all the land lying between the boundary on the east and south of the same, and a line beginning at a white oak on a corner of the tract aforesaid and running north 26°30' east 255 perches to the Magnolia on Lovelace's corner, aforesaid containing 81 1/2 acres more or less. Also one other tract of parcel adjoining the eastern boundary of the last named tract and including all the land between said boundary and a line beginning at the Magnolia on Lovelace corner aforesaid and running East one perch and 6/10 to the center of the St. Francis Ville road, thence along said center to the intersection of the said eastern boundary of the last named tract, containing 610/100 acres more or less.

Wilkinson County (Mississippi) Land Record Book "C," No. 208.

30 Murrell, "History of the Randolph Family."
Mississippi, Louisiana, and the Republic of Texas. He (Sidney) died in the latter part of the 1830's, and upon his death John Hampden was granted the power of attorney from Phebe E. Randolph, wife of his deceased brother, in regard to the settlement of her inherited possessions in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. In this settlement the balance of assets over liabilities was found to be $115,898.82. For his services as administrator, John Randolph received as his commission $8,761.45.  

As executor of the estate, Randolph was the holder of four promissory notes amounting to $4,000 in all, which were made by Peter Germell in favor of and endorsed by Joseph Neibert and James C. Wilkins. These notes were placed in the hands of the Planters Bank of Woodville on March 23, 1841, as security for the collection of the money which it had loaned out to the executors in the settlement of the estate. The final settlement involved considerable litigation and it was not until February, 1849, after a decree of the Probate Court of Wilkinson, presided over by Judge Francis Gildent, that a final decision was rendered.

31 Decree of Probate Court, Wilkinson County, Mississippi, MSS. in "Settlement of Estate of Algernon Sidney Randolph, Randolph Collection.
32 Agreement between James C. Wilkins and John H. Randolph, 1838, Randolph Collection. The notes were, one of $12,000 due January 1, 1839, another for $13,000 due January 1, 1840, one of $14,000 due January 1, 1841, and one of $15,000 due January 1, 1842. As collateral security for the payment of these notes Wilkins gave the following notes on George N. Parks, which were secured by mortgages as follows: one note due on the first day of January, 1842 for $21,275, and two other notes for the same amount each due on January 1 of successive years. Parks given the privilege in this agreement of paying the notes in cotton to be delivered to New Orleans at 10¢ per pound.
33 A.M. Fettus report for notes and stock placed with the Planters Bank of Woodville as collateral security, March 23, 1841, Randolph Collection.
34 Agreement between James C. Wilkins and J.H. Randolph, ibid.
Five years after his father's death, on December 14, 1837, John Hampden Randolph married Emily Jane Liddell. At this time they were the children of large land owners, perhaps among the richest planters of the district. Randolph was twenty-four years of age, tall and handsome, over six feet in height, and the possessor of a strong personality. He was a member of the Episcopal Church. Emily Jane Liddell was the third child of Moses and Bethia Liddell. Moses Liddell was born in the Abbeville District of South Carolina, March 5, 1785, the son of Andrew and Jane Johnson Liddell. Through her mother Bethia Frances Richardson, Emily Jane Randolph was a descendant of the Marquis de Lesselyne, a Huguenot refugee from France.

An interesting occurrence in the life of the mother of Moses Liddell is an account of the seizure of the father's home during the Revolutionary War. A band of Tories and of Cherokee Indians set fire to his house and during the conflagration he escaped but was severely burned and died shortly afterward. Evidently Jane was not at home at this time, but the invaders stripped the family of all their belongings.

In October, 1805, Moses Liddell moved from the Pendleton District, South Carolina, to Mississippi and after living at Greenville and Natchez finally settled in Woodville in January, 1812. On October 20, 1814, he married Bethia Frances Richardson and to them were born six children, whose names and

35 Interview with Mrs. H.E. Upton, July, 1935.
36 Murrell, "History of the Randolph Family".
37 Family record written by Moses Liddell, December 24, 1830, MSS, Randolph Collection.
dates of birth are as follows: St. John Richardson, December 6, 1815, who later became prominent as a Confederate General; Nancy C., October 12, 1816; Emily Jane, January 25, 1818; Bethia Frances, August 15, 1819; Moses, February 18, 1821; and James, September 8, 1822. Moses and James lived only a short time. Mrs. Moses Liddell died in 1824 after an illness of nine days. 38

In the early 1820's Moses Liddell served as representative from his district to the state legislature. 39 He was interested in agriculture as well as in the practice of his profession, however, and purchased a plantation called "Elmby" in 1815, near the town of Woodville, at which place he settled. In a letter written to a friend on December 24, 1830 he stated that he "made the first crop almost in the woods." A typical early settler, he cleared the land as he prospered. As more money was made, more lands were bought and more slaves brought in to cultivate them. 40 Thus his estate grew and he came to own large tracts of land. As early as 1822, a record is found of the receipt of a sum of $9500 by Moses Liddell and Bethia F. Liddell, his wife, for the sale of 240 acres to John A. Shaw. 41

38 Robert Lowry, A History of Mississippi (Jackson, 1891), 605-607.
38 Genealogical record of Bethia Liddell, recorded by Frank L. Richardson, October 26, 1885, Randolph Collections.
40 Family Record written by Moses Liddell, Randolph Collection.
41 Wilkinson County, Land Record Book "C," 208.
Moses Liddell and St. John Richardson Liddell, his son, had property in Louisiana, as did Francis D. Richardson, the son-in-law of Moses Liddell, who owned a sugar plantation in St. Mary's Parish, Louisiana. These circumstances undoubtedly had some influence in causing John Hampden to become interested in the cultivation of sugar despite the fact that he was a successful cotton planter. It is highly probable that John Hampden was considering a move to new fields as early as 1835. In May of that year he sold a portion of his land, thirty acres, to Benjamin Ferguson for the sum of $200.42

On March 9, 1841, Randolph purchased a plantation in Iberville Parish, Louisiana, from Doctor Henry A. Doyle for the sum of $30,000. Only $863 of this amount was paid in cash but Randolph was to pay the remainder over a period of four years. This property was located on the south side of Bayou Goula, bounded on the north by the lands belonging to Paul Hebert and on the south by lands belonging to the United States.

42 The land was described as follows: Lying in the county of Wilkinson on the waters of Bayou Sara Creek and beginning at a beach which stands in the Bayou that lies on the north of William Waters land, thence up said Bayou about 338 perches to a beach, then east 35, South 60 perches to a popular, then south 35, east 16 perches. Then east 35, north 70 perches to a bay and from thence to the beginning. Bound on the north by lands of John H. Randolph and on east by lands of William Waters. South by Benjamin Ferguson and on west by John H. Randolph. Ibid., "J," 56.
Doyle had purchased this land on June 19, 1834, partly from the government and partly from Gideon Pearce.\(^{43}\)

The continuation of Randolph's plans to move to Louisiana are more clearly seen from the fact that in October of the same year (1841) he disposed of his property in Wilkinson County.

For the sum of $9000 he sold to Benjamin F. Hebert all of the northwest quarter of Section twenty in Township one of Range three, containing 158 75/100 acres, also another strip in Section nineteen in Township one of Range three west, containing 300 acres, except thirty acres laid off by himself in a deed bearing the date, May 30, 1835. Another tract of land being a part of the southwest quarter of Section twenty, of Township one, Range three west, containing forty acres, with the addition of thirty acres which had been surveyed by Benjamin Ferguson on May 30, 1836. The whole tract contained 498 71/100 acres. Randolph had bought this land from William S. Lewis,

\(^{43}\) The sale reads as follows: $863 to be paid in cash to the vendor. The purchaser assumed the payment of a mortgage on the land in favor of the Union Bank of Louisiana for the sum of $5,000 being for a loan of money made by the bank to Mr. Doyle on February 3, 1835, which mortgage was at the time reduced to $2,750. The purchaser also assumed the payment of another mortgage on this property in favor of the Union Bank originally for $7,800 being also for a loan of money to Doyle by the Bank on December 2, 1837, but being now reduced to $6,594.44. For the remainder of the cost, the purchaser signed four promissory notes payable to the order of W.C. Ventress and by him endorsed and payable at the office of Discount and Deposit of the Union Bank of Louisiana at Plaquemine. One of which notes was for the sum of $1,588.86, to come due one year after date, the second note for $5,201.85, payable in two years after date, the third for the sum of $5,201.84, payable three years after date, and the fourth for $7,500 due four years after date. Randolph also agreed to substitute other slaves in place of twenty-four negroes belonging to the vendor which were not mortgaged to the Union Bank. Iberville Parish, (Louisiana) Record of Conveyance Book 'U' (January, 1841-April, 1842), 92. Cited hereafter as Record of Conveyance Book.
which was a part of Lewis' wife's dowry, but he did not have a clear title because Mrs. Lewis had not granted a legal and valid conveyance of her right of drawer. Until she did this the sale could not materialize. And, the fact that Randolph did not have a clear title to the land probably explains why he did not move to Louisiana until the end of 1841. During the whole of 1841 he continued his agricultural pursuits in Wilkinson County.44

On October 26, 1841, John Hampden as executor for Emily Jane Randolph, his wife, put up for sale at auction and sold to George Morris, as highest bidder, a parcel of land for $5000 on twelve months credit. This property, situated about two miles west of Woodville, was the west half of the northwest quarter of Section thirty-seven in Township two west, containing 861 acres.45

When all these transactions were completed and he had finished his plantation tasks for the year 1841, Randolph moved with his family to Louisiana in December of that year. They traveled by coach following the general course of the Mississippi River until they reached a point opposite their future home in Iberville Parish. The little family, at the time composed of three members crossed the river on a small ferry and settled at the place which they called "Forest Home."46

44 Wilkinson County Land Record Book "M," 446.
45 Ibid., 532.
46 Interview with Mrs. Moses Liddell Randolph of Bayou Goula, wife of Moses Liddell Randolph, July, 1935.
CHAPTER II

THE GROWTH OF THE ESTATE
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Iberville Parish is located in the southeastern section of Louisiana and is bounded on the north by the parishes of East and West Baton Rouge and Pointe Coupee; on the south by Assumption and Iberia Parishes, and on the west by St. Martin and St. Landry. The Mississippi River flows through the eastern portion of the parish. This region, composed of rich alluvial soils and wooded cypress swamps, contains 643 square miles.  

The parish has a rather long and interesting history. Its name is derived from the great French explorer, Pierre Le Moyne d' Iberville. The early settlers were principally of French and Spanish descent and the earliest records concerning the population were those taken by O'Reilly in 1769. At this time it had 376 inhabitants. Louis Dutise was commandant and judge of the "District of Iberville" in 1770 when he was succeeded by N. De Verbois. In the decade following 1765 the population of the parish was increased by the influx of Canadians and people from the Canary Islands who located in the "Iberville Coast."  

"Iberville County" was established by an act of the territorial legislature in 1804. Later in January, 1807, when the Territory of Orleans was divided into nineteen par-

2Ibid., I, 550.
ishes, Iberville was made to include Iberville County and the settlement of Galvestown. Point Pleasant, located about eight miles below Plaquemine on the right bank of the river, was the first seat of justice, which was later moved to Plaquemine in 1842.

The parish seat, Plaquemine, is situated at the junction of Bayou Plaquemine with the Mississippi River. The bayou received its name from the large number of persimmon trees which grew along its banks. The town gets its name from that of the bayou. Plaquemine was incorporated by an act of the legislature in March 1838.

The town of Bayou Goula is located about thirteen miles below Plaquemine (following the river), on the same side. Bayou Goula (the bayou) was named for the Bayougoulas, a Muskogean tribe of Indians inhabiting that region about 1700. The name Bayou Goula is derived, through the medium of French, from Choctaw "Bayuk" and "okla," meaning "Bayou or River People." This bayou empties into Bayou La Butt which eventually finds its way into Grand River. Many of the finest sugar-growing plantations of the state were established and developed around this little town of Bayou Goula.

3 Ibid., I, 550.
4 Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Louisiana, I, 238.
5 William A. Read, Louisiana Place-Names of Indian Origin (Baton Rouge, 1927), 51.
7 Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Louisiana, I, 238.
8 Read, Louisiana Place-Names, 9.
9 Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Louisiana, I, 238.
The location of plantations was determined by the courses of the rivers and bayous "which themselves determined the location of the tillable land." Before the building of levees, water annually overflowed the banks of the rivers and bayous. After each of these overflows the silt was deposited close to the river bank, and after many years there was produced in this manner land of great fertility, suitable for cultivation, and sloping downward toward the swamps beyond. Usually the tillable land extended back only the length of one plantation. For this reason the owners measured the size of their holdings by so many "arpents de face" (arpents front). An arpent front was a strip of land having a width of one arpent upon the bank of the stream or river, and extending in depth to forty arpents. The Mississippi River, flowing through southeast Louisiana, at one time had many outlets as far as two or three hundred miles above its present mouth. These bayous overflowed as did the river and consequently built up their own riparian strips of lands, suitable for tillage. Bayou Plaquemine and Bayou Goula, both in Iberville Parish, were at one time outlets for the Mississippi and they built up their rich banks, which were very desirable lands to own.

When Randolph removed to Iberville in 1841, it had a population of approximately 2528 whites, 85 free colored, and 5887 slaves. He settled on "Forest Home" plantation which

10 An arpent was equivalent to almost an acre. The Canadian arpent is about eighty-five per cent of an acre. The width of an arpent is about twelve rods.
12 Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Louisiana, I, 238.
FOREST HOME

OVERSEER'S HOUSE AT FOREST HOME
he bought from Dr. Henry A. Doyle in 1841. Forest Home contained over 2000 arpents (about 2000 acres), and was situated on the south side of Bayou Goula some five or six miles from the Mississippi River. It was named "Forest Home" by Randolph because it was partly composed of swamp land, heavily wooded, and the house was situated almost in the forest. The original house remains in existence today, but the kitchen extension and one wing have been removed.

During the years 1842 and 1843 Randolph planted most of his land in cotton and the remainder in corn, but he had plans of becoming a sugar planter, which plans were realized in 1845. He found it to be a financial strain to get established in the sugar business, and as he was in need of cash he tried to sell half of his land for $20,000. However, according to the records he did not find sale for the land and found it necessary, in order to get cash, to mortgage all of his property on Bayou Goula. On December 30, 1844, he secured a loan of $15,000 on Forest Home plantation, which included the land, amounting to 2000 arpents, a grist mill, dwelling house, sugar mill, and forty-six slaves. The Bank of Louisiana of New-Orleans made the loan, and the note was made payable on December 28, 1845.

13 Interview with Mrs. Moses Liddell Randolph, July, 1935.
Randolph's plans had also been held up due to the fact that G.W. Parks had not paid the amount due him from the settlement of his brother's estate.\textsuperscript{15} However, on the eighth day of January of the following year (1845) he received $6013.52 from Parks and signed an agreement whereby Parks was to pay him the balance in three equal payments, the first being due on January 1, 1847, and the two remaining ones maturing on January 1 of the two succeeding years, with the added provision that if an overflow of the river, caused a ruination of his (Parks') crops, Randolph was to grant an extension of time for payment.\textsuperscript{16}

Since his marriage in 1837, Randolph had from time to time borrowed money from his father-in-law, Judge Moses Liddell, and in June, 1846, owed him approximately $5000. In a letter to her brother, St. John Liddell, Mrs. Randolph wrote, "I suppose you are out of debt and can take some pleasure in enjoying your income. I do not know when we will ever have that pleasure, perhaps when we get too old to enjoy it."\textsuperscript{17} However, there is evidence that Randolph's financial situation began to improve by the middle of the year 1846. In June of that year he wrote to Judge Liddell: "I have just returned from New Orleans and find that I have $800 or $1000 to my credit and if you should stand in need of any please let me know. When I was in the City the time before last I purchased the bonds of the Commercial

\textsuperscript{15} Agreement, George N. Parks and Randolph, January 8, 1845. Randolph Collection.

\textsuperscript{16} Emily Jane Randolph to St. John R. Liddell, June 12, 1846, in possession of Mrs. L.B. Liddell of Baton Rouge, La.
A SCENE ON RANDOLPH'S SWAMP LAND WHEN OVERFLOWED
In the 1850's Randolph came into possession of a considerable amount of swamp land which he purchased from the State of Louisiana for fifty cents an acre. This land was located in the low area adjoining Grand River which runs through the western part of Iberville Parish and empties into Grand Lake. On June 22, 1852 he bought all of Section three, in Township eleven, South, Range twelve, East, containing 640 acres. On May 3, 1854 he purchased Lot three of Section two in the same Township and Range, and on March 5, 1855, he bought another tract in the same locality, being all of Section four, and the west half of Section eight. Section four contained 640 acres and the west half of Section eight contained 320 acres. On April 4 of the same year he bought still more swamp land located in Township ten, South, Range twelve, East, and contained the following tracts: all of Section fifty-three, except thirty-six and one half acres in the northeast corner, containing 603½ acres; the west half of Section eighty-seven, containing 320 acres; the west half of Section eighty-eight, containing the same number of acres; and, the northwest quarter of Section ninety-three, containing 160 acres. In all, these swamp lands amounted to 3607 acres. A photo-

18 Randolph to Moses Liddell, June 30, 1846, in possession of Mrs. L.B. Liddell.
19 Interview with Mrs. H.E. Upton, July, 1935.
20 Record of Conveyance Book "34," no. 38.
Survey & Subdivision of the
RANDOLPH-HUTCHINSON
CYPRESS SWAMP LANDS
Area 2897.50 Acres
Being
Section No. 52 Less N\(^2\) of N\(^2\)
" 53 " N.E.\(^2\) of N.E.\(^2\)
" 87 ALL
" 88 "
Situated in
T10S.R.12E.S.E.L.D. La.
Surveyed by
CHAS. DICKINSON
Parish Surveyor & Civil Engineer
Iberville Parish
La.
Sept., 1884
static map of the section of the parish between the Mississippi River and Grand River, with Randolph's landed possessions outlined in black may be seen on page

A special survey of the Randolph, Hutchinson swamp land was made in 1884, a copy of which is on page 31. Holmes Hutchinson's swamp lands were adjoined to those of Randolph. There is no definite reason given for Randolph's accumulation of so much swamp land except the fact that lumber which he used in the construction of sugar houses, a home, warehouses, and other buildings on his plantations, and, the wood which he used as fuel for the sugar house boilers was cut from the cypress, oak and other trees in the swampy region.  

By the year 1852, Randolph had not as yet received all the money due him from the settlement of his brother's estate, back in the early 1840's. He still held Parks' note for a portion of the original amount. However, on January 8, 1852, Parks acknowledged in writing an indebtedness to Randolph of $7626.70 which he promised to pay with interest, and it was stipulated that "Randolph in no manner was to relinquish any of his rights to enforce payment at any time under said mortgage or otherwise by suit."

21 Patents granted by the Register of Land Office (Louisiana), 1860. Randolph Collection.
22 Parks to Randolph, January 8, 1852. Randolph Collection.
By January, 1855, Randolph's land holdings began to expand rather rapidly. On the fourth day of that month he purchased a tract in Iberville Parish from Simmin D. Landry, which fronted the Mississippi River on the same side as his plantation, "Forest Home," and contained three arpents front and forty arpents deep. This was Lot twenty-five of Township ten of Range thirteen, East, and was bounded above by the property of Joseph A. Gallagher and below by that of Antoine DuBoulet, a free man of color. The sale included all buildings and other improvements then on the property. At the same time and from the same person he bought another section of land, being Lot twenty-four of Township ten, Range twelve, East, and with this purchase were included thirteen slaves. In payment for this property Randolph gave $7850 in cash and $1150 owed by Landry in favor of widow Stephen Ross, which he paid to the widow. The balance of $18,000 he paid in two equal installments, on February 20, 1855, and the other February 20, 1856. This land was the plantation which he named "Nottoway."

On June 12, 1855, Randolph and his neighbor, Governor Paul O. Hebert, exchanged some of their land. Randolph gave 29.12 acres, being a part of Section 68, which was valued at $145.41, for 8.25 acres, being a portion of Section 90, valued at $42, both tracts situated in Township

23 Record of Conveyance Book "S," no. 558.
ten, Range twelve, East. Hebert paid the difference of $103.41 to Randolph in cash. Both parties to this agreement contributed to a right of way through their property, Hebert granting forty feet and Randolph twenty-five. This exchange of land was made so that Randolph could construct a road to and from Forest Home plantation, and his newly acquired property on the river. This exchange with Hebert did not give him a full right of way as tracts owned by other people were situated between the two plantations.

On July 7, he paid $100 to William C.S. Ventress for a piece of land forty feet wide by thirteen arpents long and made a similar agreement with Norbert Cropper in which he bought a tract from him for $100 giving Cropper the right to use the road. This strip was forty feet wide. Then in order to complete the road, it was necessary to buy another strip, this one from Pierre LaCroix. He paid LaCroix fifty dollars for the northwest corner of Lot two of Section ninety-four in Township ten, Range twelve, East. This purchase was negotiated on May 16, 1856. This road is shown on the map on page which shows Randolph's possessions between the Mississippi River and Bayou Goula.

Mrs. Randolph's father, Judge Moses Liddell, died in the summer of 1856 and at the time Randolph was travelling in the North on business. In a letter to her brother, St.

24 Ibid., "4, no. 58.
25 Ibid., no. 66.
26 Copy of Contract, Randolph and Norbert Cropper, June 28, 1855, Randolph Collection.
27 Record of Conveyance Book "4, no. 302.
John R. Liddell, Mrs. Randolph wrote:

I received the letter which you so kindly wrote informing me of the death of our poor father... Mr. Randolph has been gone nearly a month. He was in Baltimore when I heard last from him... Mr. Randolph does not expect to return before the middle of September. 28

The settlement of Liddell's estate was involved in much litigation, but in the final settlement his heirs each realized a large inheritance. In his will he wrote: "The property which I have before sold, and the debts due and owing to me therefor, I wish collected and divided amongst my children and heirs, viz.- St. John R. Liddell; Carolina Gillis, child of Nancy C. Griffin, deceased; Emily Jane Randolph; and the two surviving children of my daughter Bethia F. Richardson, late wife of Francis D. Richardson, to be equally divided amongst them... That portion of my property in negroes, land in Texas, etc., I wish to be divided into four equal parts." Lastly, he "appointed his son St. John R. Liddell and his son-in-law, John H. Randolph the executors of his last will and testament." 29 In the final settlement, Mrs. Randolph received some $35,000 in land, cash and other investments, 30 and with this inheritance the assets of the Randolph estate were definitely increased.

In the early part of the year, 1857, Randolph began

28 Emily Jane Randolph to St. John R. Liddell, August 3, 1856, in possession of Mrs. L.B. Liddell.
29 Last Will and Testament of Moses Liddell, 1856, Randolph Collection.
30 Emily Jane Randolph versus Randolph, July 16, 1872, Randolph Collection.
to look for land in other states besides Louisiana and Texas. He was interested in securing some property in the states of Wisconsin and of Iowa. He appointed Andrew Levering of St. Paul, Minnesota, his agent for buying suitable property in the Lake Superior area. In a letter to Randolph on April 6, 1857, Levering wrote: "I certainly deem it wisest for you or other about making investments to do so at once. As soon as navigation opens the prices will range high for all classes of property. There is no doubt but that much money will be invested this summer in Bayfield and Superior lands." After much looking around and investigating locations, Randolph bought Lot number seventeen, being part of Section twenty-eight in Township seventy-eight, North, Range four, East, in the state of Iowa, for which he agreed to pay John S. Swits all debts which had been incurred by P.M. House, the former owner.

In the next month, Randolph's attention turned to lands farther north. On May 6 he bought a tract of real estate in the state of Minnesota from William Ferriday and Helen C. Ferriday, his wife, situated in the county of La Pointe, being an equal half of the southeast quarter of Section thirty-two in Township fifty, North, Range four, West, for which he paid $800.

31 Andrew Levering to Randolph, April 6, 1857. Randolph Collection.
33 Copy of Suit-Claim Deed, William Ferriday and Wife to Randolph, May 5, 1867. Randolph Collection.
Randolph appointed T.L. Lyon his agent in 1867 and gave him full power of attorney in May, 1868 to "enter or purchase any such land or lands in the state of Iowa, and in such parcels and at such prices and on such terms, as he may deem, for us Randolph and his wife and to execute in payment in security of such purchase or purchases any and all necessary and proper promissory notes, mortgages, deeds of trust and voucher, whatsoever in any way growing out of or connected with such purchase or purchases. Also, in the name of us or either of us, to sell in such parcels, at such prices; and on such terms of payment as he may deem best, any and all lands which we now own or may hereafter own... in the state of Iowa." Lyon was Randolph’s attorney until April, 1859, at which time he left Iowa for Pittsburg and turned over the charge of Randolph’s lots to Samuel W. Barber, a friend of his. At this time, Randolph had a balance of $643 with Lyon which was left with Barber to be used used in the payment of taxes. Lyon wrote a letter to Randolph on April 28, 1857 in which he said:

Since the receipt of your letter in March, proposing to send me $5000 to invest for you, I have been making enquiries concerning lands in Wisconsin, in the Lake Superior region and in Nebraska, as well as in this state (Iowa), and Minnesota. There is at this time very little, if any, good

34 Grant of Power of Attorney to T.L. Lyon, by Randolph, May 15, 1858, Randolph Collection.
35 T.L. Lyon to Randolph, April 30, 1859, Randolph Collection.
land in this state and Minnesota subject to private entry at government price, $1.25 per acre, and the offices in Nebraska are not yet opened for private entry, nor is it known when they will be. I have no doubt a great deal of money could be realized by investing in land in that territory. I was offered a half interest in a claim of 300 acres adjoining the growing town of Florence, for $1500, but as there was no government title, as yet, to the land, nothing but "claim club" titles, I declined taking it although I think it will be speculation. On the eighteenth inst. I received a letter from J.W. Burbridge and Company (an investment house in New Orleans, through which Randolph carried on his business transactions over a long period of years) enclosing a Bill of Exchange for $5000 for your account. The money arrived at a very opportune time, as money is extremely scarce just now—people submitting to sacrifice in the sale of property, for the sake of getting cash. Several opportunities of making excellent investments for cash have presented themselves. I have purchased for you in this city (Davenport) a lot sixty-four by one hundred fifty feet for $3000, $2387 cash, the balance, $613 next March. I have also purchased 160 acres of good land in this county for $1100—also an undivided half of eighty acres near the city of Bayfield on Lake Superior for $800....

Before making any of the purchases mentioned I made particular enquiries concerning them—went to see some of them and consulted with several friends particularly Mr. Ferriday and Mr. Crampton who have given a great deal of attention to real estate in this region, and all consider them bargains.

I am offered a beautiful lot in the upper part of the city, for $400 cash, altho' similar lots are selling for from $600 to $700, one third cash, balance one or two years with ten per cent interest. But I have not been able to take it.

The next month (May) Lyon wrote to Randolph again telling of a good piece of land which he had bought:

Among the purchases I made for you was one of nearly six acres of land above the city of Davenport with a fine view of the river and surrounding country. I considered the property so cheap that altho' I had paid for other purchases, nearly all the money you had sent me, I concluded to take this for you at $900. So I paid $650 cash.
and gave my note for the balance ($250) at thirty days...

Property is changing hands in great quantities this spring and at good advances in prices paid last year, and will, I confidently believe, continue to advance.37

Thus Randolph came into possession of these lands in the North. There are no records to show how he used them or what became of them, and it is doubtful whether he ever visited these states where his lands were situated. The subsequent disposal of these lands is unknown, but it is supposed that they were sold or forfeited for non-payment of taxes during the years following the Civil War.

On February 2 of the year previous to 1857 when he purchased the northern estates, Randolph bought a tract of land from Mrs. Joseph Bangon for $11,000, $6000 of which he paid in cash and $5000, March, 1857. This land was next to the property which he had purchased from Landry, and measured two arpents and thirty-six feet fronting the Mississippi River, and forty arpents in depth.38 Because of the higher value of land along the river, Randolph was evidently trying to acquire more in that location.

His next purchase was made on March 30, 1857, at which time he bought a lot situated in the town of Bayou Goula. He paid Mrs. Harriet H. Winn, widow of Thomas C. Vaughn, $4000 for this tract, $1333.33⅓ of which money he paid in

37 Lyon to Randolph, May 27, 1857; Randolph Collection.
38 Record of Conveyance Book "A," no. 150.
parity and had become a successful sugar planter. However, his neighbor, Franklin Hudson was not so prosperous as he was in debt and was handicapped by poor health. James W. Burbridge wrote to Randolph on February 9, 1858, reminding him of this fact and suggesting to Randolph that he buy half of the plantation and take over its management. He wrote:

You neighbor and (our) mutual friend is certainly in bad health which is assisted by depression of spirit owing to his pecuniary embarrassments which he now feels terribly. I have been thinking over his condition and his best plan of relief, and it has suggested itself to me, that if you would buy half the plantation, and take the control and general management, that the plantation could be soon brought out of debt and without any outlay of money on your part.

Randolph took Burbridge’s advice as far as buying half of Hudson’s plantation was concerned, however Hudson continued to manage the whole plantation. Randolph paid $35,000 for half the plantation, (which was called Blythewood), part of which Hudson owed him for a loan made March 15, 1854. The purchase included, besides half the land, half of all other property on the plantation, consisting of mules, cattle, sheep, slaves, etc. This plantation was situated on the north side of Bayou Goula at about two or two and a half miles from the Mississippi river. Hudson had named the plantation, “Blythewood,” but the records fail to give a reason for the selection of this name.
On the same day of the sale, Randolph and Hudson entered into an agreement for the purpose of cultivating this plantation for a period of five years. Both were to share

evansance book: "A certain lot of ground lying and situated in Iberville Parish in the Village of Bayou Goula, measuring on the north side, 284 feet, on south side 267 feet, on east 220 feet, on west 200 feet. Bounded towards the River by lot of Assene Breaux, towards woods and in rear by land of William and George Murrell, and in front by public lane." Record of Conveyance Book "5," no. 21.

41 The sale reads as follows: "Franklin A. Hudson sold to J.H. Randolph the undivided half share and portion of all property described: (1) a certain plantation situated on the north side of Bayou Goula, measuring ten arpents front on said bayou, containing 800 arpents, bounded in front by said bayou, east by land of Governor P.O. Hebert and Druy and Lawes; west by lands of Joseph D. Hamilton and north by lands of John P.R. Stone and J.B. Craighead. (2) Certain tract of land, east half of Section forty-five, and forty-eight, Township ten, Range twelve, East, west of Mississippi River, containing 365 acres. (3) Another tract of land--being designated as lots three and six of Section forty-five, and Lot one of Section fifty in Township ten, Range twelve, East, containing 296.70 acres. (4) Another tract of land containing 78.36 acres, designated as Lot two, Section fifty, Township ten, Range twelve, East. (5) Twenty-five mules, six horses, about thirty heads of horned cattle, all sheep, hogs, now being and belonging to said plantation. (6) The undivided half part of twenty-nine slaves, all being attached to said plantation. To be paid for as follows: (1) One special mortgage in favor of Louisiana Bank for $9000 as security for payment of promissory note signed by F.A. Hudson, April 5, 1853, payable one year after date being for money loaned to Hudson and wife by Bank, now reduced to $5400. (2) Special mortgage in favor of succession of Robert Sewell, deceased, for sum of $8000, being the last note furnished by Hudson for purchase of undivided half of property herein sold on April 21, 1853. Due and payable at the end of March, 1857, held now by J.W. Burbridge and Company. (3) Special mortgage in favor of Joseph L. Jamison for sum of $5000 as security for promissory note for said amount furnished Hudson to Jamison, April 12, 1855, and payable two years after date. Now amounts to $5500. These mortgages assumed by J.H. Randolph. A mortgage existed on slaves sold, amounting to $15,000 to J.W. Burbridge and Company, which F.A. Hudson binds himself to pay. Vendor mortgages property to J.H. Randolph as security that mortgages on slaves will be taken up." Ibid., no. 224.

40 Burbridge to Randolph, February 9, 1858. Randolph Collection.
profits and losses equally but the management was to be under the supervision of Hudson, and he was to live in the house during the extent of the contract. 42

At this time, in order to carry out his many financial transaction Randolph found it necessary to secure a loan of money from the Bank of Louisiana of New Orleans. On May 14, 1858, he borrowed $22,000 which he promised to pay back in one year from the date of the loan. 43

By 1860 he was able to buy more land in Iberville Parish. On February 27, 1860, he bought a parcel from Adele Segur, being "a certain tract of land... at Bayou Goula landing, measuring thirty-four feet toward the river by one hundred fifty feet in depth, the rear line measuring fifty-four feet." This lot cost Randolph $500 for which amount he gave eleven promissory notes payable as follows, "one for $166.662/3 payable March, 1860; five notes each for $33.331/3, payable March, 1861; and five more, each for $33.331/3 payable March, 1862. 44

On March 2 of the same year Randolph sold a piece of property, which was the first tract of his landed possessions in Iberville Parish that he disposed of since his coming in 1841. On that day he sold half of the lot which he had bought from the succession of Adele Segur on February 27, to

42 Record of Conveyance Book "5," no. 235.
43 Acknowledgement of Debt by Randolph to Bank of Louisiana, May 14, 1858. Randolph Collection.
44 Record of Conveyance Book "7," no. 73.
to Paul O. Hebert. Randolph and Hebert used this strip to construct a warehouse for the use of their plantation goods. It was built by Gustave Landry at a total cost of $190, not including the lumber which Randolph and Hebert supplied from their timber lands. 45

The year 1860 was one of Randolph's most prosperous years if we may judge by the amount of land which he bought in that year. On April 20, he purchased another tract of land from Emile L. Sigur, a successor of Adèle Sigur, which was situated in the same locality, for $8767.50, $5260.50 of which he paid in cash and the balance of $3507 he paid in two equal payments, one on March 12, 1861, and the other on March 12, 1862, but in order to meet these obligations, he found it necessary to place a special mortgage on his property. 46

On May 4, 1860 Randolph bought at public auction, being the last and highest bidder, a tract from F.V. Gallagher, and with the tract three slaves, Andy, aged thirty-two, Lucinda, aged twenty, and Amos, aged twenty-seven, for which he paid $10,000 for the land and the negroes. Of this $10,000 he paid $2500 in cash and the balance of $7500 was made payable in three installments, for which sum he gave

46 Record of Conveyance Book "7," no. 172.
On May 14, 1860, Randolph bought still another parcel of land, this time from Mrs. Adeline Gallagher, widow of Gilbert Comeaux. This tract measured two arpents front and was bounded above by land of Emile Sigur and below by the land which Randolph had purchased on May 4 at the auction sale. The price of this strip was $10,000, and he paid for it in the same manner as he paid F.V. Gallagher in the purchase of May 4, namely, $2500 cash, and the balance of $7500 in three payments of $2500 each, due on March 1 of the three following years. And, on the same day he bought still another tract. This one was purchased from Joseph A. Gallagher and measured one and one-half arpents front on the Mississippi River, by forty arpents deep.

47 The sale read as follows: "... measuring one and one half arpents in front on the Mississippi River by forty arpents in depth. Bounded above by land of Emile Sigur, below by land of Joseph A. Gallagher, and in the rear by land of the widow of Gilbert Comeaux... Another tract—the undivided half of a certain tract of land..., back and adjoining a tract of land of Joseph A. Gallagher at about eighty arpents from the margin of the Mississippi River, measuring two arpents front toward the Mississippi; bounded in front by land of J.A. Gallagher, in rear by land of Emile Sigur, above by land of Adeline Gallagher, and below by land of John H. Randolph." Ibid., no. 173.

Survey of Portions of Township 10, South, Ranges 12 and 13, East, Southeast District of Louisiana in the Parish of Iberville, By E. Gourrier, Surveyor, Plaquemine, Louisiana.

This survey shows John H. Randolph's lands, outlined in red, on the Mississippi River and on the south side of Bayou Goula.
He paid the same amount ($10,000) for this tract, and paid for it under the same terms as was agreed to under those of the sale of Mrs. Adline Gallagher. 49

From the time of his last purchase made in 1860 there is no record to show that Randolph bought any more land between that time and the year 1871. Without doubt the state of war placed him in a rather embarrassing position, but he held on to his land and carried on his work as best he could. During the reconstruction era he again began to buy land. On January 13, 1871, he bought the remaining half of Blythewood plantation containing some 800 arpents, from Franklin Hudson, from whom he had purchased the first half in 1858, before the war began. This purchase included the east half of Section forty-five, and forty-eight, North, Township ten, Range twelve, East, and still another tract being lot three in Section forty-five and Lot one, Section fifty, Township ten, Range twelve East, containing 296.70 acres. Lastly, another tract being Lot two, in the same Section, Township and Section, which contained 78.36 acres. Also, twenty-five mules, horned cattle, hogs, carts, wagons, plows, etc. Randolph paid $10,718.48 cash and signed two notes for the balance, one for $3000 and the other for $4281.52. 50

49 Ibid., no. 211.
50 Ibid., Book "10," no. 260.
On February 12, 1871, Randolph purchased the Bayou Goulia plantation, which contained 1182.24 acres and paid $4500 for it in cash. This evidently proves that he was an exceptionally good business man, as planters had very little cash on hand during reconstruction days. He bought the plantation at public auction at the Merchants Exchange on Royal Street, New Orleans. The Bayou Goulia plantation was formerly owned by William C.E. Ventress who went bankrupt and lost the plantation. It was situated on the southeast side of Bayou Goulia between the land belonging to P.O. Hebert and Randolph's plantation, Nottoway, and other plantations on the river, and was composed of Lots seventy-eight, eighty-three and part of Section Lot seventy-nine, all in Township ten, Range, twelve, East, having a front of thirty acres on Bayou Goulia.\(^51\)

At this time Randolph's estate in Louisiana was at its greatest extent, amounting to well over 7000 acres. His land and moveables alone were valued at $49,150 for which he paid $1720 taxes, the state tax being $1056.72, parish tax $344.05, parish school tax $73.72\(^2\), and a special judgment tax of $245.75.\(^52\)

His last purchase of land was made on March 6, 1875 at which time he bought a tract situated in Iberville.


\(^{52}\) Iberville Parish, Notice from Assessment Roll of 1871, Due in 1872. Randolph Collection.
Parish, on the right bank of the river, being a portion of Section twenty-eight of Township, Range thirteen, East, for $588, of which $196 was payable in cash, and the balance in two equal payments due in two years. It was purchased from F. Silvert Marionnaux. From the time of this purchase until his death in 1883 his possessions rapidly decreased by sale and other means.

53 Record of Conveyance Book "12," no. 217.
CHAPTER III

A COTTON PLANter, 1834-1844
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A COTTON PLANTER, 1834-1835

In an earlier chapter we have seen how the people from the eastern seaboard states after using up the best lands in that area moved west to take up new ones. The districts in and around Natchez and Vicksburg, where the soil was exceedingly rich, were very sought after regions. Many migrants from the East settled in this area and took up the raising of cotton for marketing purposes.\(^1\) In 1786, the Sea-island variety became known in the South, but was superseded by Upland cotton, a new variety, introduced in 1793. This new cotton did much toward developing the cotton industry in the Southwest as far as Texas.\(^2\)

A variety of cotton from Mexico was introduced into Mississippi early in the nineteenth century. This variety was crossed with Upland cotton and the result, called "Mexican or Petit Gulf cotton," "became the virtual basis of the typical Mississippi crop."\(^3\) It came into general use soon after 1820 and with the various other strains developed from it, almost totally displaced the earlier

\(^1\) Phillips, American Negro Slavery, 172.
\(^2\) Phillips, Plantation and Frontier, I, 85.
\(^3\) Charles Sackett Sydlor, Slavery in Mississippi (New York, 1933), 184.
\(^4\) Rowland, History of Mississippi, the Heart of the South, II, 516-18.
varieties.4

In 1834-35, there were some 511,140 bales of cotton produced in the Mississippi-Louisiana area, and by 1841-42 this amount had increased to 727,668 bales.5 By 1834, Alabama and Mississippi had moved up the highest position among the cotton producing states of the Union, each producing in round numbers some eighty millions of pounds.6

King Cotton reigned supreme in Mississippi before the war. Its cultivation at that time by slave labor gave better returns than any other industry in which planters could engage. Commission merchants in New Orleans, Memphis and Mobile were eager for the business of wealthy Mississippi planters and were always ready with money to secure it. The demand for cotton was greater than the supply and the prices paid for the precious product of the delta and hill lands of the state returned a handsome profit to the producer.7

* * * *

John Hampden Randolph's cotton record books go back to 1834 and in them he records the amount of cotton each of his field hands picked per day, and the total pickings for the weeks and the years. In October, 1834, he had the following hands picking cotton on his plantation in Wilkinson County: B. Chester, Billy Richards, Henry, George, Ned, Betsy, Rose, Lucy, Amy, and Patsy.8

7 Mississippi Historical Society Publications, III (1900), 88.
8 Cotton Book, October, 1834, Randolph Collection.
Thursday, October 30 was a very successful cotton-picking day. On that day all hands together picked 1286 pounds of cotton, and the total number of pounds for the week, October 27 to November 1, was 6150. There was a let down in the amount gathered the following week, November 3 to 8, when only 5260 pounds were gathered, despite the fact that another negro named Amy, was added to the force. However, Randolph probably used three of his hands, Billy, Henry, and George at some other work as there were no records of their having picked any cotton during the week.9

After these brief entries there is a gap in Randolph's records which continued until the following year, 1836. During the week of September 21 to 27 of that year his hands picked 5016 pounds and from September 28 to October 3, there were 7411 pounds gathered. Four slaves were added to the picking force that week. The high week of the month was that of the 26 through the 31, in which the same fourteen negroes picked 10,245 pounds of cotton. Ned alone picked 240 pounds on Tuesday, September 29. During the same week Randolph had all hands picking every day and he was not handicapped by rain.10 It has been esti-

9 Ibid.
10 Ibid., September, 1835.
mated that the average amount of cotton a negro could pick was a little over five bales in one season. 

By November 2, 1835, Randolph had increased the number of field hands to sixteen but due to excessive rains during the month the total poundage of cotton picked was less than in October. On December 5, he put all sixteen hands to digging potatoes. The staple did not take up all the planter's land at this time, as he raised nearly all his own food supply.

Billy Richards was Randolph's ginner and in that capacity he used him continually from December 16 to 23. Another negro, William, was employed at "driving the gin."

The job of "ginner," though a light one, required a certain skill and usually a well trained negro served in that capacity. As a rule a small boy was used to drive the teams of horses, generally four in number, which supplied the power for the gin. This was called "driving the gin."

On most plantations the gin-house was usually a weather-boarded building about forty feet square. It was elevated above the ground about eight feet, with power provided by means of draught animals, as mentioned above. These ani-

11 Sydnor, Slavery in Mississippi, 184.
12 Cotton Book, December 5, 1835, Randolph Collection.
13 Phillips, Life and Labor in the Old South, 129.
14 Cotton Book, December 16 to 23, 1835, Randolph Collection.
were hitched to a horizontal beam which was attached to a hub. Between 1820 and 1860, improvements in the ginning apparatus promoted an increase in the average weight of the bales from 250 to 400 pounds.\textsuperscript{16}

For the year 1836, Randolph produced eighty bales of cotton, the weights of which ranged from 334 to 507 pounds.\textsuperscript{17} Prices of cotton at this time averaged 16.25 cents per pound,\textsuperscript{18} giving him an income of approximately $6500.

Between cotton picking and planting time the planters in the cotton producing sections had many tasks to perform, such as "burning canebrakes, clearing underbrush and rolling logs in the new grounds, splitting rails and mending fences, clearing ditches, spreading manure, knocking down the old cotton and corn stalks, and breaking the soil of the fields to be planted." Usually corn was planted in March to be followed by cotton planting in April.\textsuperscript{19} A cotton planter of the period wrote: "I begin to plant the first fine weather after the 20 of March, though usually not before early in April, some of my neighbors even earlier than the 20 some seasons. I prefer to be a few days later and have all business well up, than to haste planting, and probably get a bad stand from cold, and part of the

\textsuperscript{16} Phillips, American Negro Slavery, 206-207.
\textsuperscript{17} Cotton Book, 1836, Randolph Collection.
\textsuperscript{18} James J. Lea, Lea's Cotton Book Containing a Statistical History of the American Cotton Crop (New Orleans, 1914), 31.
\textsuperscript{19} Phillips, American Negro Slavery, 207-209.
In the early fall the harvesting of the cotton crop began again. During the week of October 3 to 8, 1836, the sixteen hands picked 10,035 pounds, despite a light frost on October 5 and rain on the 8. On the 4, they began picking the bushes for the second time, and during the following week the same sixteen negroes picked 10,965 pounds, but Billy was put to ginning on Thursday the 13, with William "driving the gin." On Friday, the 21, Randolph added three hands to his force whose names were Charles, Rosetta, and Daphne. Apparently, they were children as Charles, the best of the three, picked a total of 125 pounds in two days which was only one-half the amount that some of the best hands picked in one day.

During this week, Billy was left to gin, Martha worked at cleaning the gin brush, William continued "driving the gin," and for three days Amy was sick, which considerably reduced the number of picking hands. Then, too, the weather was inclement, being rather damp and cold. However, on the 22, the first ten bales of cotton were completely ginned and pressed.²¹

From time to time during the cotton picking season Randolph had to stop the hands and put them to gathering

²¹ Cotton Book, October, 1836, Randolph Collection.
corn, potatoes and other vegetables produced on the plant-
tation. During the 1836 season he put all hands to work
gathering corn and potatoes in the week, October 22 to
November 4. In Mississippi the soil produced corn as
readily as cotton. It was possible, the seasons being so
long, to raise two or often, three crops of vegetables in
a year. Peas, potatoes, beans, and fruit could be grown
quickly and abundantly.  

There were 10,505 pounds of cotton picked the week
of November 6 to 12 and 10,275 pounds picked the week of
November 14 to 19. On the 19 the second picking was com-
pleted, and to date the harvesting period had lasted six
weeks. On the same day, the 19, seven more bales were
pressed. The picking went on through November and Decem-
ber, and the week December 5 to 10, was the greatest one
Randolph had thus far experienced. In his cotton book for
the year he wrote, "The biggest week’s picking ever made
by me. The reason why, the cotton was wet and weighed
heavy." The picking went on through the latter part of
December of 1836 but the number of pounds picked per per-
son was considerably reduced. On December 31, Betsy pick-
ed the most cotton for the day, which was only eighty-five
pounds. The last cotton picking day for the season, Jan-

22 Ibid., October 22 to November 4, 1836.
24 Cotton Book, November, 1836, Randolph Collection.
25 Randolph wrote curious things in his cotton books, some
of which are worth quoting. "Woman’s tongue is like unto a
fast running horse, the faster it goes the less weight it
carries." Ibid., December, 1836.
Randolph, like a number of other planters in the South, did not use all slave labor on his plantation. In 1834 he hired Ned Farm, a free man of color, and paid him eighty dollars per year for his services. Ned, his wife, Betsy, and their three children, Selina, Betsy, and Fanny, worked for a number of years, and all were paid a stipulated amount of money. Farm worked for Randolph until his death in 1850, at which time Randolph acknowledged a debt of $610.85 to his heirs, which amount he kept in trust for Ned's wife and children. Another record shows that Randolph hired a man by the name of Archibald Lord at fifteen dollars per month in 1837. It is not known whether Lord was a white man or a negro but it is assumed that he was a negro. Ned Farm and his wife, Betsy, were excellent cotton pickers. As a rule free negroes did not perform agricultural labor on the plantations. They generally served as barbers, coopers, carpenters, cabinet makers, mechanics, brick layers, wheelwrights, plasterers, tanners, shoemakers, blacksmiths, sawyers, wood dealers, draymen, hucksters, millers, gardeners, confectioners, bakers, fisherman, day laborers, attendants of persons, household ser-

26 Ibid.
27 Ibid.
vants, seamstresses, and laundresses. There were many free negroes in the South before the war. In 1850 there were 17,000 in Louisiana, 9000 in Mississippi, and 2000 in Alabama. Randolph may have used farm at other tasks on the plantation but throughout the cotton books the records show that he worked side by side with the slaves.

The next routine record books are for the years 1841 and 1842, the ones for 1837 to 1841 having, no doubt, been lost in the course of time. By the beginning of the harvesting season of 1841, Randolph had increased his force to twenty-three. On July 29, the hands commenced picking and by August 4, all cotton that had opened was picked, so they were put to "cutting through with the hoe." During the first week of the second harvest they picked 2349 pounds, despite the fact that William and Amy were each on the sick list two days. However, there was quite a difference the next week in the number of pounds picked, when 7179 pounds were gathered. At the end of the next two weeks 49,170 pounds had been picked, and by that time Randolph had increased his force to twenty-six. On August 18, he had to appoint a new ginner because Billy took sick and remained indisposed from August 11 to August 26. Another cause for slow picking was the fact that on August 10,

Henry ran away but was caught on the 15 and was sentenced to jail where he remained until the 26 of the same month, after which he was returned to the cotton fields. This was not the only case of a runaway slave, and like other planters of the South Randolph was continually having such trouble, but his runaways were comparatively few in number. The case of Henry is the only one recorded in his books before he left Mississippi, but on October 4, 1847, after he had moved to Louisiana, he had to hire a man by the name of LeBlanc to catch a runaway slave named Tom. LeBlanc's bill for the job was ten dollars. On August 1, 1861 Randolph paid Gus three dollars for catching Ben.

The newspapers, during this period, advertised for runaway slaves for which they charged rather large fees. On November 15, 1853 Randolph paid the Picayune seventeen dollars for advertising runaway Peter. One negro, named Augusta ran away twice in 1855. On February 16, he paid five for her capture and on June 12 paid six dollars for the same purpose. On November 14, 1858 a negro man named Grippin was paid twenty-five dollars for his services in bringing back a runaway. This was the largest amount paid for catching a runaway slave in the whole of Randolph's books, and these citations are all the expense items recorded for this purposes during the period 1847-1861.31

31 Plantation Book, 1847-November 14, 1868, Randolph Collection.
On August 23, 1841, twelve bales of cotton were pressed, and by the 28 seven more had been added to that number. Usually four hands, one a youngster, did the pressing. Randolph's establishment had grown do that another negro was required to "drive the gin." The sick list for the first week in September was rather long, seven hands being sick for periods ranging from one and a half to three days each. On September 7, Billy Richards was well again and was put back to ginning, with Amos and Manson "driving the gin."34

As an inducement for harder work among the negroes, Randolph devised a scheme whereby they were induced to race against one another for prizes for the most cotton picked over a certain period of time. In September, 1841 racing began which lasted for two weeks. Randolph divided the sixteen hands into seven groups. The first group, composed of Betsy, Lucinda and Ned raced for a scarf and a pair of pants; the next group, consisting of Amy, Rosetta and Henry, for a cape; and each of the five remaining groups for a pair of pants. In the first group, Betsy won

32 Cotton Book, August, 1841, Randolph Collection.
33 A certain cotton farmer of this period pressed, on an average, nine to ten bales a day weighing 425 pounds each. Philips, "Cultivation of Cotton," in American Agriculturist II (1834), 173.
34 Cotton Book, September, 1841, Randolph Collection.
over her opponents, having picked 2849 pounds of cotton. Rosetta was the winner in the next group, having beaten Amy and Henry. She picked 2355 pounds during the two weeks. Darian, who raced with Fanny, won because Fanny was caught stealing cotton and was forced to forfeit the race. Charlotte, with a total of 2035 pounds, won over William who had only picked 1896. Amy, who picked 1896 pounds, was the winner in the fifth group. This was a close race as her competitor, Delphy, picked 1864 pounds.

In the next group, Jack with 1493 pounds won over Peter who picked only 1427. And, in the last group Culpepper picked 1454 pounds to win over Reuben who had gathered only 1109. In Randolph’s books another cotton picking race was recorded which took place in Iberville Parish on Forest Home Plantation. It began on October 6, 1842 and lasted for three days. There were twenty-six negroes competing this time, grouped into thirteen pairs.

35 Ibid., September, 1841.
36 The negroes were grouped as follows: Betsy was matched against Lucinda, Ned against Rosetta, Henry against Darian, Amy against Charlotte, Sancho against Amy, L. Peter against Coaly, Reuben against Martha, Amy (2nd) against Green, Morris against George, Manson against Harry, and Amos against Salina. After three days racing the winners were declared to be Lucinda, Ned, Darian, Amy, Sancho, William, Jacko, B. Peter, Martha, Amy (2nd) Green got sick on the third day), Morris, Manson, and Salina. Ibid., October 6-9, 1842.
Another race, between the same pairs was held during the month from the 17 to the 25. These races were quite interesting and the records showed that as a rule the women were better pickers than the men. Evidently, Randolph found that this method of arousing the competitive spirit was a good inducement for hard work among the negroes.  

By the 4 of October, 1841, ninety-four bales of cotton had been ginned and pressed. The number of pounds for the year jumped to 183,237 by October 23, and at the close of the year Randolph made a total of 129 bales, the weights of which ranged from 358 to 455 pounds, with an average weight per bale of well over 400 pounds. Prices at this time were rather low, ranging from ten and a half to five cents. So, despite the fact that he produced more cotton than he had raised in 1835, his income was hardly $4000 which was considerably less than he had received in 1835. This was, no doubt, one of his reasons for moving to Louisiana at the end of the year.

For the first two years after moving to his new plantation, Forest Home, in Iberville Parish, Randolph continued his life as a cotton farmer. At this time, despite the sugar boom, Louisiana produced a rather large proportion of the South's cotton. In 1845 it was estimated that 350,000 bales were produced in the state, but later cotton produc-

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37 Ibid., October 17 to 25, 1842.
38 Ibid., October to December, 1841.
tion became confined to the more northerly parishes. 40

Therefore, Randolph planted most of his land in cotton and a large part of the remainder in corn, for the first two years after coming to Louisiana, as he was not yet ready to venture into the cultivation of sugar cane. So, for these two years his record books show that practically the same labor routine was carried on in Louisiana as had been carried on in Wilkinson County.

On August 29, 1842, cotton picking began at Forest Home. At this time Randolph had twenty-seven laborers but only sixteen were put to picking cotton. The slaves which belonged to Dr. Henry A. Doyle, from whom Randolph bought Forest Home, were not included in the purchase, so he brought his slaves from Mississippi and added a few to swell the number. For the year, 221,326 pounds of cotton were picked which made 188 bales with the average weight per bale being well over 400 pounds. This gave Randolph a better income for that year as compared to 1841, as his gross proceeds exceeded $5000. 41

Randolph was solicitous for his negroes' welfare. Blankets and shoes were distributed at the beginning of the winter, some receiving two blankets and two pairs of shoes. At this time there were seventeen slaves on the

41 Cotton Book, 1842, Randolph Collection.
plantation belonging to Judge Moses Liddell, who received the same rations as the other slaves. The planters of the South usually saw to it that their slaves enjoyed a certain amount of physical comfort, and negroes during slavery time had better homes, clothes, and food than they had for a long period of years after they were freed. The planters were aware of the fact that comfort and care promoted a high birth-rate. This was important too, as a planter's wealth was often counted in terms of the number of slaves that he owned.

One of the ante-bellum planter's most annoying problems was getting a good, reliable overseer to look after the work on the plantation. Judging from the number of overseers which Randolph paid off from time to time, it can be assumed that he either had considerable trouble getting satisfactory ones, or that he was a very difficult person to please. With a knowledge of Randolph's character gained from a study of the manner in which he carried out his other business affairs, the former conclusion may be assumed without any hesitancy. On December 3, 1842, he hired William Leatherman as overseer at $300 per year, but on the 18 of the same month discharge and paid him fifteen dollars for his services. On May 16, 1848 he paid Myhand sixteen dollars which he owed him for overseer.

42 Ibid., November, 1842.
43 Phillips, American Negro Slavery, 296.
44 Cotton Book, December, 1842, Randolph Collection.
OVERSEER'S HOUSE ON NOTTOWAY

ONE OF OLD BRICK CABINS ON BLYTHEWOOD
ing, and on August 20 of the same year he paid J. H. Morrow $158 for overseeing three months and four days. For the year 1849 he paid J. E. Orcutt $700 for the same work, and for the year 1851 the wages of the overseer were raised to $800. For 1853 the salary remained the same, but for 1856 he paid a man by the name of Miro only $400 for overseeing, which may have been due to the fact that he quit work or was discharged before the end of the year. The highest wages which Randolph paid for overseeing was $1200, which he paid L. Downing for his services in the year 1861. The wages of the overseer were not as high as that of the sugar-maker, but the overseer's job lasted the entire year round whereas that of the sugar-maker only lasted during the grinding season. Then, besides the yearly wage, the overseer was given a home to live in and provisions for himself and his family. At Forest Home plantation the overseer's house was situated close to the "big house," and the negro quarters were in rear of it, not more than fifty to a hundred yards away. Today only a few of the cabins are standing, many having been blown down by the wind.

As to methods of improving the acreage production of cotton, Randolph had some ideas of his own. In a letter to St. John Liddell, his brother-in-law, he expressed his plan in writing:

45 Plantation Book, May 16; August 20, 1848, Randolph Collection.
46 Ibid., January 1, 1850 - January 18, 1862.
47 In 1843 Randolph's expenses showed $1.26 spent for an overseer's whip. Ibid., January 1, 1843.
48 Interview with Susan Greene, July 7, 1936.
I think that I can improve the plan of the Lake Providence planter by suggesting that instead of leaving weeds in his cotton, as he says, to plant corn in it, which would answer the same purpose and you would have the corn in the bargain. I think the advantage would be in favor of the corn, which by pulling the fodder would give the cotton sun which it is obliged to have, and if you left the weeds they would shade the cotton until frost caused it to open late and a great deal to rot.49

The year 1844 was the last one in which Randolph planted cotton on a large scale. From that time on the principal part of his land was devoted to cane. In 1844, he had only twenty-five acres in cane and 180 acres in corn, but in 1845 cane took the place of cotton as a staple.50

49 Randolph to Liddell, August 11, 1844, in Possession of Mrs. L.B. Liddell.
50 Ibid.
CHAPTER IV

A SUGAR PLANTER, 1844–1883
Due to annual inundations by the Mississippi River and its tributaries the level land comprising Iberville Parish became extremely fertile. This and adjoining ones became the best districts adapted to the cultivation of sugar in the United States.\(^1\) Here the sugar-cane industry attained its greatest perfection and it has been called "the sweetest section of country in the United States." Extensive plantations grew up on both sides of the great river and of the numerous bayous and streams which are a part of the mighty river system and perhaps the plantation system was more thorough in the alluvial lands of Louisiana than anywhere else.\(^3\)

As cotton culture progressed in the various regions of the lower South, so did the culture of sugar in the southeastern part of Louisiana. The soil of this region differed from that of the cotton producing sections. The lands that were some distance removed from the rivers and streams were constantly being overflowed, and consequently they were too boggy and swampy for cultivation except along the rivers and bayous.\(^4\) These lands were higher than the surrounding areas and they sloped downward to the swamps beyond.\(^5\) So the planters cultivated the lands close to the streams and built their


I own levees for protection against the ravages of the floods. "The homesteads fronted the streams and the fields stretched a few hundred or at most a few thousand yards to the rear." A writer of the period states:

The banks of the Mississippi River are the highest part of the alluvial land. The banks of the bayous and lakes are also high, if not higher. The soil of the land adjoining the Mississippi is alluvial on both sides of the river below 33°, but moreso along the western side. The soil of this area is the most fertile in the world, and the climate delightful during nine months of the year, and bad the remainder.

Indigo was tried as a staple in the eighteenth century, but the planters met with little success in its cultivation. Its growth was hampered by certain insects, the planters could not get a good price, and the health of the slaves was injured during its manufacture. At one time cotton was one of the leading products of southeastern Louisiana, but the greater profit afforded by cane production "enabled the latter to usurp many of the plantations hitherto exclusively devoted to the former." As early as 1725 and 1762, attempts had been made at sugar culture, but the early frosts which came before the cane was fully ripe greatly discouraged this enterprise.

Etienne Bore, a prominent Creole who owned a plantation just above New Orleans, was successful in his attempt at sugar making in 1795. Following his success the sugar industry in

6 Phillips, American Negro Slavery, 163.
7 Breckenridge, Views of Louisiana, 160-61.
8 Phillips, American Negro Slavery, 164.
10 "Agriculture of Louisiana" in DeBow's Review III (1847), 415.
11 Phillips, American Negro Slavery, 164.
in Louisiana experienced a rapid growth. In nine years the number of estates increased to ninety-one.\textsuperscript{13} The passing of Louisiana from French to American control had a stimulating effect upon the sugar-producing district. "Large and thoroughly organized plantations became the characteristic feature,"\textsuperscript{14} and due to certain climatic conditions the sugar district was confined to the southern or delta region of Louisiana.\textsuperscript{14} Many of the newcomers to the state settled around Baton Rouge and the Red River with the intention of producing cotton on a large scale, but in 1828, upon the passage of the Tariff Act of that year, which raised sugar prices at a time when the cotton prices were low, the majority of these people shifted to sugar. The introduction of ribbon cane, which matured earlier, in place of the previously used Malabar and Otaheite varieties, further enhanced the growth of the sugar cane industry.\textsuperscript{15}

In 1827, there were 308 sugar estates, employing approximately 21,000 slaves and having a value of $34,000,000. By 1830, there were 691 plantations with 36,000 slaves and a value of $50,000,000. Louisiana was at that time producing about one-half the sugar supply of the country.\textsuperscript{16}

\begin{flushleft}
\textsuperscript{13} Phillips, \textit{American Negro Slavery}, 164.
\textsuperscript{14} Phillips, \textit{Plantation and Frontier}, I, 86.
\textsuperscript{15} Phillips, \textit{American Negro Slavery}, 166.
\textsuperscript{16} Ibid., 166-67.
\end{flushleft}
The tariff was raised again in 1842, causing the number of plantations to increase to 762 in 1845 and their maximum number of 1536 was reached in 1849. Slaves at that time numbered more than 100,000. The cotton markets recovered from the slump in prices during the early 1840's and as a result there was a check in the development of the sugar industry, and by 1859 there was a decrease of 138 sugar plantations. Between 1830 and 1850, the population of slaves on Louisiana plantations was nearly doubled. The output of sugar increased to 200,000 hogsheads in 1844. In the best ante-bellum year there were 1407 fully equipped plantations, 103 making less than 100 hogsheads each, while forty produced 1000 hogsheads and over. \(^\text{17}\) In 1861, Iberville Parish was the second highest sugar producing parish in the state. In that year, St. Mary's Parish led with 48,779 hogsheads, Iberville followed with 41,921, Assumption was third with 37,481, and St. James was Fourth with 34,227. \(^\text{18}\)

As early as April 1843, Randolph began making preparations for the building of a sugar house which would be needed when he shifted from the raising of cotton to the raising of sugar cane. On April 12, 1843, he commenced making bricks to be used in its construction. In a letter to St. John Liddell on August 11, 1844,

\(^{17}\) Ibid.

The PLANTATION BELL at FOREST HOME

THE SUGAR HOUSE POND AT FOREST HOME
he wrote concerning the brickmaking, "I have been trying to make bricks for the last two weeks but it has rained so much that I have got along but slowly. I did want to make 200,000 this summer which would be enough with what I have, and would have nothing to do next year but to put up the building. I have all my lumber and a great part of the wood work done." 19

At first he planned to buy second-hand machinery for the sugar-house. In a letter to a friend he wrote, "I have a good chance of getting second-hand sugar mill and engines capable of taking off 300 hogsheads of sugar which will be large enough for my purpose." 20 However, he changed his mind and made an agreement with Miles and Company of Cincinnati, Ohio, on November 30, 1844, for the purchase of the machinery. They agreed to build and deliver at Bayou Goula a steam engine and sugar mill complete, having two boilers made of heavy 316 inch iron, 32 inches in diameter and 25 feet long, with a 11 inch cylinder, and also 4 feet stroke rollers of 26 inch diameter, 4 feet long with cast iron shafts. This machinery was to be delivered on or before June 1, 1845, and was to be put up and made ready for operation before October 1 of the same year. Randolph agreed to pay the sum of $2500 when the engine was delivered at Bayou Goula and $2000 on March 1, 1846. 21

The sugar house was a very important feature of the sugar plantation. A contemporary author of the period wrote:

19 Randolph to Liddell, August 11, 1844. In possession of Mrs. L.B. Liddell.
20 Randolph to James A. Stewart, August 19, 1844. In possession of Mrs. William Whipple.
On every plantation the sugar house is one of the most prominent objects. It would be impossible to give a correct idea of the immense amount of money lavished upon these adjuncts of the sugar estate, not only for things acknowledged to be useful and positively necessary, but more particularly for apparatus to be used in the manufacture of the crop. Hundreds of thousands of dollars annually find their way to the coffers of the Northern artisans, in return for his skillful labor in endeavors to improve upon the machinery used in the crystallization of sugar.22

Due to the heavy expense of getting established in the sugar business Randolph found that he was unable to finance the enterprise alone for the first few years. He did not have a sufficient number of negroes, mules, wagons, or enough money to feed all the hands or to pay the overseer, engineer, and sugar-maker.

He first tried to sell half of his land to James A. Stewart of Woodville, Mississippi. In a letter to St. John Liddell he wrote, "I made a proposition to James A. Stewart to take one half of my land at $20,000 which he has not yet decided upon, but expect him down in the fall to look at it, and think it probable that he will purchase as he is anxious to go into the sugar business. My object in selling is to get the cash which I stand much in want of as it takes no small sum to erect a sugar establishment. If I do not sell to him I must try someone else."23 In a letter to Stewart concerning the prospective agreement he wrote:

I think upon reflection that in case you join me, it would be better that you would put upon the place the first 12 or 14 hands because if you made the force equal to mine it

23 Randolph to St. John Liddell, August 11, 1844. In possession of Mrs. L.B. Liddell.
would be impossible to plant enough cane to make a good crop, as planting cane is a very slow business, and thus there would not be open land enough for all and we would scarcely have time to open more the first year. By adding 12 or 14 hands there would be plenty of land already open to plant a crop of cane and corn, and it would take only seven or eight acres of cane more than I have which I can get for $30.00 by applying in time, which is considered very low, and another reason which I will be candid enough to acknowledge is that in case you put in the first year only 12 or 14, you can spare them from your place, and will not have to bring any, and thereby be able to make us a larger profit on the place, which I will stand much in want of if my friend Parks should be overflowed.

The longer I live here the better I like the place and would by far rather own land back than immediately on the river. I think it more healthy and much more productive, the soil twice as easy to cultivate, and have not half the trouble managing your negroes which you would have on the river, the only objection is the hauling to the river which is a small consideration when taking into consideration all the advantages.

Stewart did not go into business with Randolph but for a period of four years beginning 1845 and extending through 1848. Randolph went into partnership with Charles A. Thornton of Wilkinson County, Mississippi, who had recently moved to Louisiana. At the beginning of each year the two parties drew up a contract to run for twelve months, at the end of which a similar one was signed for the following year. By the first contract, made on December 13, 1844, Thornton was allowed one-fourth of the crop proceeds on all sugar, molasses and corn. His part of the bargain was to furnish ten negroes, six mules, three yoke of oxen, one excart, and an oxwagon. He was to furnish his own negroes with meat sufficient for their maintenance, with clothes, with physician’s care, and with the necessary working tools and utensils. Thornton agreed further to pay one-fourth of the

24 Randolph to James A. Stewart, August 19, 1844. In possession of Mrs. William Whipple.
wages of an overseer, an engineer, and a sugar-maker, and also
one-fourth of the necessary expenses of cultivating the crop
for the specified time, besides paying to Randolph $500 for
and in consideration of the privileges stated above. 25 At
the end of the first year Randolph paid Thornton $4847.31 as
his share of the crop, the total proceeds amounting to
$19,389.25. 26 Agreements similar to this one were made in
the following years, except that in the succeeding contracts
Thornton was given one-third of the proceeds of the crop. 27
On June 2, 1848, Randolph transferred $2203 to Thornton for
his share of the 1847–48 profits and judging from this, Ran-
dolph’s profit for the period was in the neighborhood of
$7000. 28

In 1846, Thornton bought a place on the Mississippi
River near Bayou Goula for $1400, which contained 120 ar-
pents. He purchased this place to be used chiefly as a
residence, and at the time Randolph was afraid that Thornton
would find it necessary to move some of his negroes who were
working at Forest Home, to work the land on his newly acquir-
ed place on the river. Randolph did not wish to see this
happen as he was not yet ready to buy more slaves. 29

It did not take Randolph long to learn the sugar business,
and by 1846 he was contemplating the production of 500 hogsheads
at Forest Home. On June 30, he wrote, "My cane crop is very

25 Agreements between Charles A. Thornton and Randolph,
1844–47, Randolph Collection.
26 Randolph in Account with Charles A. Thornton, 1845–46,
Randolph Collection.
27 Agreements between Thornton and Randolph, 1844–47.
28 Plantation Book, June 2, 1848, Randolph Collection.
29 Randolph to Moses Liddell, September 27, 1846, In pos-
session of Mrs. L.B. Liddell.
very fine and supposed by neighbors to be good for 500 hogsheads. My corn crop is also good considering the unfavorable season for corn. He was offered six cents per pound in advance for his cane by his neighbor, Christopher Adams, formerly of the house of Adams and Whitehall of New Orleans. It was Randolph's opinion that Adams had received some information that prices of sugar were due to rise that year or the next.

During the summer months, before cane cutting time, Randolph was busily occupied in building a large cane shed and "putting up a set of kettles," to be used in sugar making. By July, he had just finished "laying by (his) crop" and soon afterward he commenced cutting wood, ditching the land, and putting the roads on the plantation in good condition for hauling cane. The wood which was cut was used as fuel for the boilers. In a letter to Liddell he wrote, "I would like to have cut 1500 loads of wood if I have time which will leave me a large surplus on hand for the next crop." A writer of this period wrote, "The amount of fuel consumed in the production of sugar is enormous. Three cords are on an average necessary for the manufacture of a hogshead of sugar, of the usual weight of 1000 pounds." Two sources of wood supply for the planters along the river were drift wood which floated down from the North, and the forests in the swamps in the rear of the plantations. As Randolph's plantation was five miles from the river,

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30 Randolph to Moses Liddell, June 30, 1846. In possession of Mrs. L.B. Liddell.
31 Randolph to Moses Liddell, July 11, 1846. In possession of Mrs. L.B. Liddell.
32 Thorpe, "Sugar and the Sugar Region of Louisiana," 758.
and as he had plenty of wood on his land he used the latter as his only source.

On October 12, Randolph commenced "rolling" and on the following day grinding began. Some of his neighbors were of the opinion that he would make 600 hogsheads but he had his doubts about it. His cane crop was very good, however, as was also his corn crop. At first, the yield per acre was so small that he stopped for a few days and had all hands dig potatoes and gather corn. On the 20, he resumed cutting and sold eighteen barrels of molasses at twenty-eight cents per gallon. He also sold his sugar as fast as the market demanded it and got five cents a pound for it, a price he considered better, all things considered, than keeping the sugar until the spring of 1847, when he figured he could sell it for six cents. "Holding a crop in storage in New Orleans (or any other market) for a better market was an uncertain and expensive process; and in order to justify such a proceeding the planter must feel sure of securing a much better price, at a later date, to compensate for the extra charges incurred for drayage, storage, and loss of weight of the sugar due to age. In the days before sugar cane was shipped by train it was sent to the markets by boat. Among the boats with which he did business were the steamers "Principe", "Bella Donna", and "Capitol".

34 Randolph to Moses Liddell, September 27, 1846. In possession of Mrs. L.B. Liddell.
35 Randolph to Moses Liddell, December 2, 1846. In possession of Mrs. L.B. Liddell.
36 Priehard, "Routine on a Sugar Plantation," 175.
During the grinding season of 1846, Randolph had some trouble with the machinery of his sugar house. On Friday, November 20, one of the roller shafts broke, and he had to send the roller to New Orleans, to have a new shaft made for it. Because of this mishap grinding was held up for eight days until the new part came. More trouble came in the form of a freeze on November 25 which killed much of the remaining unground cane. He saved most of it, however, as only a small proportion was then uncut, and he could cover the cane that was cut and lying on the ground. Usually when the freeze came early all cane still standing was cut and laid down "several rows at a time in the furrow between the ridges, and leaving it covered by the cane tops and trash to protect it from injury by the freeze." This was called "Windrowing" the cane. While the windrowing was taking place the mill was shut down and all hands were put on this job.

By December 2, Randolph had made 300 hogsheads of sugar and had hopes of reaching 450. He had sold 204 hogsheads and 290 barrels of molasses which netted him about $16,000. A writer of the period estimated that a planter who had 400 acres in sugar cane, which yielded 400,000 pounds at five and one half cents per pound, and 10,000 gallons of molasses at eighteen cents per gallon, after deducting all expenses,

38 Randolph to Moses Liddell, December 2, 1846. In possession of Mrs. L.B. Liddell.
39 Pritchard, "Routine on a Sugar Plantation," 177.
40 Randolph to Moses Liddell, December 2, 1846.
usually made a profit of about $15,500.\textsuperscript{41} After deducting the cost of the initial outlay of the plantation, and after subtracting Thornton’s one-third, Randolph’s profits for the year (1846) were almost $5000.\textsuperscript{42} In a letter to Randolph, November 10, St. John Liddell wrote, "I am gratified at your making such a large sugar crop, with good prices to back you. I think you are fortunate, very fortunate" (Liddell had not done so well with his cotton crop during the year).\textsuperscript{43}

As Randolph prospered on his plantation, Forest Home, and later on his other sugar plantations, he had gradually increased his number of slaves. When he came to Louisiana in 1842 he had only a limited number, twenty-three slaves, Ned Farm, his wife and three children, and seventeen negroes who belonged to Moses Liddell. When he switched to the raising of sugar cane he found that he did not have enough to run the plantation so he contracted with Charles A. Thornton to get more slaves. As we have seen, Thornton furnished ten.\textsuperscript{44} On January 3, 1853 Randolph bought a nineteen year old negro named Coon from J.T. Leach of Jefferson Parish for $1200.\textsuperscript{45} On February 28, 1856, he bought twenty-two negroes from Moses Liddell for which he gave two promissory notes, each for $6425, the first falling due April 1, 1858, bearing six per cent interest, and the second being due April 1, 1859

\textsuperscript{41} Robert Baird, View of the Valley of the Mississippi (Philadelphia, 1834), 285-88.
\textsuperscript{42} Agreements between Thornton and Randolph, 1844-47, Randolph Collection.
\textsuperscript{43} St. John Liddell to Randolph, November 10, 1846, Randolph Collection.
\textsuperscript{44} Agreements between Thornton and Randolph, 1844-47, Randolph Collection.
\textsuperscript{45} Record of Conveyance Book, ‘3,’ no. 35.
NEGRO CEMETERY ON NOTTOWAY

A PLANTATION SCENE
and bearing six per cent interest also.46 By April, 1857, Randolph owned eighty-seven and eighty-eight female slaves. By age and sex, they were distributed as follows: ten males and eleven females under five years of age; eight males and nine females from five to ten years of age; six males and seven females from ten to fifteen years of age; forty-nine males and forty-nine females from fifteen to forty-five years of age; and fourteen males and twelve females forty-five and above.47 In July of the same year he bought one male negro which made eighty-eight of each sex.48 On January 7, 1859, he bought six negro men from W. Campbell and paid $9900 for them.49 An inventory of February 8, 1862, showed a total of 195 slaves belonging to Randolph which were subject to Confederate war tax.50

Randolph was very good to his slaves. They called him "Marse Jack", but in order to keep the negroes well in hand certain rules were enforced, one of which was that the negroes were not allowed to go visiting to another plantation without a "pass".51 They were not without spending money, as every Christmas a certain amount was given them as a Christmas present.

47 Taxable Property in 1857, MSS in Randolph Collection.
48 List of Taxable Property to E.A. Acorneaux, Assessor, July, 1857, Randolph Collection.
50 List of Property Owned by Randolph Subject to Confederate War Tax, February 8, 1862, Randolph Collection.
51 Interview with Susan Green, old negro woman who belonged to F.A. Hudson, July 7, 1936.
and frequently they were paid for extra work. On July 7, 1850 he paid "negroes $45.00 for extra work in running the water wheel; and on December 25, 1854, paid cash to negroes for corn and for extra expenses $500." The negroes were given medical service and a doctor was paid a yearly sum for this service. A Doctor Hall was Randolph's physician for a long time and his fees ranged from $100 to $235 per year. 52

Randolph did not depend solely upon slave labor. Besides the overseer, who was employed continuously, an engineer, a sugar-maker, a cooper, and numerous ditchers had to be hired during the grinding season and at other times during the year. On December 15, 1847 he discharged his engineer, T.J. Rossa, and paid him $207 for his services to date, and on December 19 hired a man by the name of Clement to fill the vacancy. Clement was to be paid $100 per month but after eight days left and received $30.72 for the period. On December 27 Randolph paid Truxcler $325.20 for his services as sugar-maker, and on October 15, 1848, he paid William Robberts $330 for seven months and two days work as a cooper. On November 18 of the same year Hiram Beatty received $118.31 for his duties as engineer, and on November 28, $362 was paid to I. Smith for sugar-making. 53 On July 27, 1853 he paid A. Davidson $387 for brickwork, and on June 6, paid $880.37 to the same man for slating the sugar house. On February 6, 1859, William Brown received

53 Plantation Book, December, 1847; October-November, 1848, Randolph Collection.
$182 for repairing the saw mill. 54

One of the Louisiana sugar planter's most persistent problems was keeping his lowlands suitable for agriculture by preventing overflows. They had to be kept well ditched which required much time and labor. The ditches ran from the rivers and bayous into the nearby swamps. They were dug at right angles to the river or stream upon which the plantation was situated and extended one or two miles, in straight lines, increasing in width and depth as they receded, until they reached the waters into which they emptied. 55 Randolph was continually having to pay someone to dig ditches on his place. Many times new ditches had to be dug and old ones deepened. Frequent entries are found in his expense books of this period for payments made to ditch-diggers, and one item of $718.35 to Patrick Gallagher illustrates the large outlay for this purpose. 56

On October 13, 1847, the work of harvesting the crop of that year began when the engineer started to work. Cutting of cane began the next day, and grinding on the 16. The cane crop of 1847 was a good one and the grinding routine went along smoothly, except that the rollershaft broke on December 13 as it had done the year before, and it cost $154.50 to have it replaced. 57

54 Plantation Book, July 27, 1853; June 6, 1856; February 6, 1859, Randolph Collection.
55 "Culture of Sugar Cane in Louisiana," (Article VIII), in Southern Agriculturist (Charleston), VII (1834), 89.
56 Plantation Book, March 10, 1847, Randolph Collection.
57 Ibid., October-December, 1847.
The crop of 1848 was also very good and by February 1, 1849, Randolph had received $7953.39 from the sale of sugar and molasses. April yielded additional receipts: $1009.30 on the first for thirty hogsheads of sugar; $1993.43 on the tenth for sixty hogsheads; and $3164.34 on the eighteenth for sixty more hogsheads. 58

For a number of years Randolph did business with an investment establishment in New Orleans by the name of Burbridge and Adams, which later changed its name to J.W. Burbridge and Company. All of his financial transactions were carried on through them, and at the end of every year they submitted a balance sheet to Randolph showing all drafts by him against his account, all deposits made with them, all money borrowed from the firm, and a final balance of cash on hand. For this work of accounting and financial transacting Randolph paid Burbridge a regular fee. On May 11, 1850, Randolph's account with Burbridge showed a cash balance on hand of $1558.21. 59

By mid-century Randolph was doing very well on his plantation, and was able to pay off $18,113.97 in debts which he had accumulated. These debts which he paid off in 1849 and 1850 are as follows:

December 28, 1849 Interest for 2 years to Bank of Louisiana for loan of $9000 $1440.00
January 24, 1850 Nine months draft to Union Bank of Plaquemine 2500.00

58 Ibid., February, April, 1848.
59 Randolph in Account with Burbridge and Adams, 1850-1870, Randolph Collection.
His income for the year 1850-51 showed the following entries:

May 11, 1850  
Cash in hands of Burbridge & Adams  
$1858.21

" " "  
Net proceeds of sales of sugar and molasses to December 28, 1850  
7993.55

" " "  
Draft on Moses Liddell due Dec. 1850  
1200.00

" " "  
Draft on Joseph Lannon due Dec. 1850  
1003.75

" " "  
Acceptance due January, 1851  
1006.00

April 2, 1851  
Cash on W.A. Read's check  
1867.51

" " "  
" paid by C.A. Thornton  
97.00

" " "  
Balance of proceeds of crop by May 9, 1851  
11542.66

" " "  
Interest in my favor to May 9, 1851  
245.15

TOTAL  
$26724.42

On March 18, 1853, Randolph's balance with Burbridge was $14,264.34. 61

It was during the 1850's that Randolph experienced the most prosperous years as far as the production of sugar was concerned. During the next cane season, 1851-52, he produced 438 hogsheads of sugar, the total for the whole Parish of Iberville being 15,835. 62 The crop for 1852-53 made 540 hogsheads, the net proceeds of which, including molasses, amounted to $36,225.26. 63

60 Plantation Book, January-May, 1850; April, 1851, Randolph Collection.
61 Randolph in Account with Burbridge, 1853, Randolph Collection.
62 P.A. Champonier, Statement of the Sugar Crop Made in Louisiana (New Orleans, 1852), 11-12.
63 Plantation Book, 1852, Randolph Collection.
The next two crops yielded 580 and 500 hogsheads respectively. In 1857-58, 504 hogsheads were made at Forest Home and eighty-nine on Nottoway. The next year Randolph bought one-half interest of Blythewood plantation from Franklin Hudson, which was operated as a partnership affair until 1871 when he bought all of Hudson's interest. The first year of the partnership, 1858-59, 270 hogsheads were made at Blythewood and the same year 149 hogsheads were made at Nottoway and 745 at Forest Home. 64

Besides selling sugar and molasses from his plantation Randolph raised a surplus supply of corn. In 1854 he sold $1321 worth of corn. 65 For his sugar and molasses made in the same year - 509 hogsheads of sugar, 967 barrels of molasses, and 108 barrels of "cistern" sugar - he received $32,334.80 66

Due to his splendid profits for the year he was able to pay off the following debts which amounted in all to $20,727.96:
He paid F.D. Landry $9000 on February 23, 1856, Nathaniel Rop $1240 on February 15, Joseph L. Jamison $4487.96 on April 1, and Rene Borgeous $6000 on the same day. The parish taxes for 1855 were $85.37 and the state taxes for the same year were $408.16. 67

64 Champomier, Statement of the Sugar Crop, 1858-59,
65 Plantation Book, May-June, 1854, Randolph Collection.
66 Ibid., 1855.
67 Ibid., February, 1855, Randolph.
The year 1856 was not a good one for sugar cane and
Randolph did not have a successful crop, producing only
197 hogsheads. That he anticipated this poor crop in
the spring of 1856 is shown by a letter of April 16 to St.
John Liddell, "My prospects for a sugar crop this year are
very gloomy. The rats are all dead, or nearly all, and
the plant is also much injured by the wet and cold weather.
I fear I will not make 200 hogsheads. The weather is so
dry now that corn planted will not come up." He made good
cane crops, however, from 1857 to the outbreak of the Civil
War, and for the season just before the War began he made
500 hogsheads on Forest Home, 160 on Nottoway, and, with
Hudson, 150 on Blythewood. On May 1, 1861, his balance
on hand with Burbridge and Adams was $8000.

During the war days, Randolph continued to carry on
his business as well as could be expected. Financial trans-
actions were made in Confederate money. He paid L. Downing
$1200 for overseeing in 1861. On February 5, 1863, he re-
ceived $1666.85 from T.D. Harris for the crop of that year,
and on March 7, $2355.06 was due him on Burbridge's books.
On April 12 Brown owed him $675 for the sale of 450 bushels
of corn at $1.50 per bushel and on April 11 he sold 220
bushels for $228. In July he received $894 from Thompson

68 Chomponier, Statement of the Sugar Crop, 1856-57,
69 Randolph to St. John Liddell, April 5, 1856, in pos-
session of Mrs. L.B. Liddell.
70 Chomponier, Statement of the Sugar Crop, 1860-61,
71 Plantation Book, May 1, 1861, Randolph Collection.
for the sale of 894 bushels of corn. Then, on August 8 he sold forty-six head of cattle to Natzhoff for $1583.72
There is no record that Randolph had any trouble with his negroes during the war period. Thomas Nelson Page said that "no race ever behaved better than the negroes behaved during the war. Not only were there no massacres and no outbreaks, but even the amount of defection was not large."73

Randolph like many other Southern planters was subject to raids on his property by Federal troops. On August 8, 1863, Federal troops took ninety-four sheep, six cows, four oxen, and one bull from Nottoway, but on the next day returned five of the cows and twenty-four of the sheep. On the same day, however, two valuable stallion horses were taken from Forest Home.74

On March 3, 1864, Randolph and his partner, Hudson, made an agreement with J.K. and Robert Metcalfe of Washington County, Texas. The Metcalfes gave Randolph and Hudson the right to reside upon their lands with their negroes in Washington County, and "to make use of any or all timber thereon and cultivate the land as long as the war may continue, free of rent." Further the agreement read that "all buildings and improvements shall become the property of the parties of the first part (Metcalfes) upon the vacation of

72Ibid., February-August, 1863.
74 Plantation Book, August 8, 1863, Randolph Collection.
the premises of the parties of the second part (Randolph and
Hudson) and shall be considered ample pay for the use of the
property.* Still further, "The Prairie place owned by Judge
Baylor, is rented for the term of one year to date from the
first of February, 1864, to be paid for by giving one third
of the corn crop raised thereon... the parties of the first
part paying out of their share the tithe on tax required by
the government." 75

The records for this period are not full enough to ex-
plain adequately why Randolph went into this Texas venture
or what he made out of it. Nevertheless, he and Hudson
went into this enterprise and left Mrs. Randolph to attend
to business at home. They left for Texas about 1863, tak-
ing with them all their slaves, valuable china, silver,
books by Audubon and others, furniture, and other movable
property of value. 76 The trip across country was made in
a wagon and was very long and tiresome. They, Randolph,
Hudson, and the negroes, stayed in Texas until the end of
the war. 77

Mrs. Randolph did not attempt to shoulder the responsi-
bility of running all three plantations but made agreements

75 Agreement between J.K. Metcalfe and Hudson and Randolph,
March 3, 1864, Randolph Collection.
76 Mrs. S. Miller Williams, tenth child of Randolph, to
writer, Fort Smith, Arkansas, July 1, 1936.
77 Interview with Susan Green, July 7, 1936. She was one
of the slaves who made the trip to Texas.
with Messrs. W.I. Brown and W.A. Smith for the management of
Forest Home and Blythewood. The agreement with Brown who was
employed to manage Forest Home read as follows:

I agree to employ Mr. W.I Brown as manager on "Forest
Home" plantation for the present year (1864) on the following
terms: Mr. Brown is to take care of everything on the place
to the best of his ability, and do nothing to the injury there-
of. Mr. Brown is to receive in payment for services one third
of the net proceeds of the crop he makes, after all expenses
for the year are paid, which expenses are to be paid out of
the crop he makes. I or my representatives are to receive two
thirds of the net proceeds of the crop. Mr. Brown is to pay
one third of the expenses for the year, and one thirds of the
taxes on the crop. I or my representatives are to pay two
thirds of the expenses for the year. All advances in money
for the cultivation of the crop during the year is to be re-
turned in full to the employer or representatives. I or my
representatives are to have control of the plantation, and
the disposal of the crop, and are to receive all the money
due therefrom. Mr. Brown is to furnish himself with every-
thing the place does not afford free of charge. 78

On the same day Mrs. Randolph drew up a contract with
Amith, which was practically the same as the one she had made
with Brown for Forest Home, with the exception that Smith was
given the privilege of living in the overseer's house on Blythe-
wood. Both agreements were drawn up and signed on January 4,
1864. 79

After the war was over, in order to carry on the work
on the land in Washington County, Texas, Randolph drew up a
labor contract with the negroes on the place, who were then

78 Agreement, Emily J. Randolph with W.I. Brown, January 4,
1864, Randolph Collection.
79 Agreement, Emily J. Randolph with W.A. Smith, January 4,
1864, Randolph Collection.
80 Similar contracts or leases were drawn up between other
planters and lessees in Louisiana at this time. Dorothy L.
Ellis, "The Transition From Slave Labor to Free Labor With
Special Reference to Louisiana" (Louisiana State University,
freedmen. These negroes, fifty-nine in number, agreed to work for Randolph from July 29, 1865 to January 1, 1866. Randolph agreed to furnish "wholesome food, houses, clothes, medical attendance and medicine," and "to support those members of their families who are incapable of supporting themselves by labor." The contract was signed by Randolph and the names of the fifty-nine negroes were listed with crosses by the side of each name. 81 Just after the war there were two forms of contracts which presented themselves to the planter - one was the hiring for a share of the crop, a place to live, food to eat, etc.; the other was hiring for stipulated wages. The planter knew very little about the latter so he usually employed the former. 82

During the post-war years, the sugar business was not as profitable for Randolph as it had been before. He continued raising sugar cane, but his income was considerably reduced, and did not nearly approach what it was in the prosperous 1850's. As an example the years 1862 and 1868 may be compared to show the difference in amount of sugar made in these two years. Taking Forest Home plantation, where a total of 710 hogsheads were produced in 1862, there were only 110 hogsheads in 1868. And similar contrasts may be seen in the comparative productions on Blythewood and Nottoway plantations.

81 Contract, Randolph and Fifty-nine Freedmen, July 29, 1865, Randolph Collection.
The output of sugar on Blythewood in 1868 was only 120 hogsheads as compared to 333 in 1862. Nottoway made the best showing of the three as far as percentage was concerned, producing 230 hogsheads in 1868 compared to 334 in 1862. There was a similar contrast in the amounts of molasses produced during these two different years. The amounts of sugar produced on the three plantations for the following year (1869) was very small too: eighty hogsheads on Forest Home, forty-three on Blythewood, and 115 on Nottoway. In the whole of Iberville Parish there were only 4907 hogsheads of sugar and 323,600 gallons of molasses produced in 1870. In 1870 his account with Burbridge showed a balance of only $1077.11 which was much less than the balances before the Civil War.

By 1870 the Hudson-Randolph partnership approached dissolution because Hudson was heavily indebted to Randolph, and finally had to sell out to him. On February 9, 1870, Hudson mortgaged to Randolph his share of Blythewood plantation for $4570.43, and on January 18, 1871 Randolph bought his share of the plantation for approximately $18,000. Just before he bought Hudson's share of Blythewood, Randolph's landed property

83 L. Bouchereau, Statement of the Sugar and Rice Crop Made in Louisiana in 1868-69 (New Orleans, 1869), 5.
84 Ibid., 1869-70, 19.
85 United States Department of the Interior, Ninth Census (1870) III, 169.
86 Randolph in Account with J.W. Burbridge, February 7, 1870, Randolph Collection.
87 Franklin A. Hudson to Randolph, Act of Mortgage, February 9, 1870, Randolph Collection.
and movables were valued at $45,500 for which he paid $858.87
taxes.

On February 3, 1872, Randolph’s account with showed a
balance of $5484.53 due the firm but by April 30 he had re-
duced this amount to $1358.59, and by January, 1875, he was
again in the clear with a balance due him of $446. In
1872, Mrs. Randolph was afraid that her husband was in dan-
ger of losing his property which, by right of law, was partly
her property, due to the fact that the $35,525.46 she had in-
herited from her father had been taken over by Randolph and
invested in the estate. Mrs. Randolph wished to show her claim
to the estate and to reassume control of her paraphernal pro-
PERTY. It is assumed that she was afraid that her property,
or rather, her share of the estate, might be seized by future
creditors; however, the available records do not fully explain
the purpose of the suit. W. O. Hart wrote:

By article 2390 (Civil Code of Louisiana), the wife, dur-
ing marriage, may petition for a separation of property whenever
her dowry is in danger owing to the mismanagement of her husband,
or otherwise, or when the disorder of affairs induce her to be-
lieve that his estate may not be sufficient to meet her rights
and claims. For all the money that a wife brings into her mar-
rriage or gives to her husband after marriage, or the proceeds
of property inherited by, or donated to her she has a mortgage
on his property, provided the claim be properly recorded, and,

88 State of Louisiana, Parish of Iberville, Assessment Roll
of 1871, Randolph Collection.
89 Account with Burbridge, 1872-75, Randolph Collection.
90 Emily Jane Liddell (wife) vs. Randolph (husband), 1872,
Randolph Collection.
if the husband is in failing circumstances, while our law prohibits his preferring one creditor to another, this does not apply to the claims of his wife for he may transfer his property to her in payment of her claims against him, even though insolvent, in preference to his other creditors reserving of course, the rights of mortgage creditors, whose claims may have been recorded before that of his wife.91

A letter of November 6, 1878, from Randolph to O. Mayo concerning a financial matter shows that at the time Randolph was short of money, "I am sorry to say to you that I am much in need of money myself, and could not conveniently spare any portion of what is coming to me."92 In January, 1880, Randolph's account with Burbridge showed a balance due them of $164.05, and in 1882 he was unable to pay E.D. Leche for repair work on the machinery, drums, juice pumps, for the erection of a tank and some pipes and for performing other jobs on the plantation. Leche petitioned the judge of the twenty-third judicial district of Louisiana for the right to hold certain amounts of sugar and molasses on Nottoway, enough to pay the debt of $320.45 owed him by Randolph.93

By this time Randolph's estate in Iberville Parish had been reduced to Nottoway plantation. He had previously sold Blythewood to his son, Moses Liddell, and Forest Home to Burbridge and Company. The description of this division of his estate is taken up more fully in the following chapter.

91 W.O. Hart, "Rights of Women in Louisiana," in Louisiana Historical Quarterly IV (1921), 440.
92 Randolph to O. Mayo, November 6, 1878, Randolph Collection.
93 Petition of E.D. Leche against Randolph, February 2, 1882, Randolph Collection.
CHAPTER V

FAMILY AFFAIRS AND THE DIVISION OF THE ESTATE
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FAMILY AFFAIRS AND THE DIVISION OF THE ESTATE

As stated in an earlier chapter Randolph came to Iberville Parish, Louisiana, from Wilkinson County, Mississippi, in 1841. He traveled by coach following the general course of the Mississippi River until he reached a point opposite his future home in Louisiana, from which he crossed by a small ferry to the west side of the river. At this time his family was very small as he had only one child, a boy named Algernon Sidney. The plantation which Randolph bought from Dr. Henry A. Doyle, called "Forest Home," was situated about five and a half miles from the banks of the river and fronted Bayou Goula. Forest Home plantation was probably so called because a large part of it was covered with virgin timber, mostly cypress trees. The home itself was built on the edge of the forest, and as there is no record to show that Randolph built the house in which he lived, it is assumed that it was already there when he bought the plantation from Dr. Doyle.1

The first few years at Forest Home were years of skimping and saving to make ends meet as the establishment of a sugar plantation required a large initial outlay of funds. However, beginning in the later 1840's and extending to 1862 Randolph's financial conditions took an upward

1 Interview with Mrs. H.E. Upton, July, 1935.
turn, and he became one of the most successful sugar planters of the district. The plantation was his gold mine, as it was here that he produced an abundance of sugar which he sold for good profits.

Paralleling his increase in wealth was his increase in family in the years prior to the Civil War. There were eleven children born to him and his wife. The first, Algernon Sidney was born in Mississippi and the others in Louisiana: John Hampden, Jr., Peter Everett, Ella E., Mary Augusta, Emma Jane, Coremia, Sallie Virginia, Annie Caroline, and Julia Marceline.²

There were few schools in and around Bayou Goula, and due to poor means of transportation Randolph found it necessary to hire teachers for his children, and once employed a graduate of Yale University to instruct them. The tutors instructed the children of other planters in the neighborhood as well as those of Randolph.³ In a letter to her brother Mrs. Randolph wrote, "We employed a young lady to sew for Carolina in January. She afterwards taught the children about two months, and is now gone to her family. I am sorry she did not remain all the year as she would have made my children pretty good scholars in that time."⁴ Carolina was Mrs. Randolph's niece, the daughter of her

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² Genealogical Record of Bethia Liddell, Recorded by Frank L. Richardson, October 26, 1885, Randolph Collection.
³ Interview with Mrs. H.E. Upton, July, 1936.
⁴ Emily J. Randolph to St. John Liddell, June 12, 1846, in possession of Mrs. L.B. Liddell.
sister, Nancy C. Liddell, who was married to William Griffin and who died in 1844. As Randolph was indebted to his father-in-law, Moses Liddell, he took charge of Carolina and advanced money for her education. One of the teachers whom Randolph hired was a Miss Johnson and another one was Mr. F.G. Cummings. Besides employing teachers who gave his children the rudiments of their education, Randolph engaged special instructors who taught them music and dancing. On October 12, 1850, his records show an expense of eighty dollars for a Mr. Plisey's services as a dancing master, and from time to time money was paid to music teachers. A Louisiana writer thus describes the instruction of the children on the Southern plantations:

After breakfast, the tutor, usually a graduate of some Northern college and treated like the gentleman he was, would instruct them (the children) until lunch. More studies until dinner, then long sunny hours spent in horseback exercise or playing in the large yard, swinging, jumping the rope or risking their necks on the juggling board.

Once a week the dancing master held classes, when the young people of the neighborhood would assemble in one home or another, and though the dances were decorous square dances varied by an occasional waltz, so abhorred of Byron, the enjoyment was not less.

Randolph's eldest son, Algernon Sidney, was prepared for the University of Virginia at Mr. Franklin Minor's school near Charlottesville, Virginia, which cost Randolph a considerable sum of money. Throughout Randolph's ex-

5 Plantation Book, November 20, 1850, June 30, 1852, Randolph Collection.
6 Ibid., October 12, 1850.
7 Louise Butler, "The Louisiana Planter and His Home," in Louisiana Historical Quarterly X (1927), 355-65.
pense books such items as the following are found: "June 2, 1855, paid F. Minor for Syd, $125;... September 19, paid F. Minor for Syd, $150," etc. After leaving Minor's school, Algernon Sidney attended the University of Virginia and later studied medicine in Philadelphia, but came to New Orleans to serve his period as an intern. Later, his second son, Moses Liddell, was sent to Mr. Minor's school too, and the items from 1857 to the Civil War read as follows: "June 6, 1857, paid to F. Minor for boys, $200;... August 28, 1858, check sent to Algernon Sidney and Moses Liddell, $500." Still later the third son, John Hampden, Jr., received money while attending schools in the North, among them the Van Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute at Troy, New York. Subsequently he taught for years at Louisiana State University, first as instructor in mechanical engineering including workshop instruction in construction of machinery and later as professor of mechanics. Randolph's eldest daughter, Ella, was also sent North to Robert Archer's school for girls in Baltimore, Maryland. This was, presumably a fashionable girls' school, judging from the expenses listed in Randolph's books.

8 Plantation Book, June 2, 1855 to September 19, 1855, Randolph Collection.
9 Interview with Mrs. H.E. Upton, July, 1935.
10 Plantation Book, 1854-1861, Randolph Collection.
12 Louisiana State University, Report of Board of Supervisors, 1882-1896 (Baton Rouge), passim.
On June 24, 1854 he paid $300 to Archer for the first session of Ella’s school; $277.61 on July 23, 1855; and $499.70 on September 18 of the same year. The next payment was for $629.33, made on March 7, 1856.

All of Randolph’s eleven children, except three, married and some lived to a ripe old age.

During the prosperous 1850’s Randolph enjoyed his wealth and spent money lavishly. He was a great traveler, his sojourns took him to the North quite frequently, and his expense books show much money spent in this way. He was continually making trips to New Orleans, Plaquemine, Baton Rouge, Black River, Last Island, the Attakapas re-

14 Moses Liddell married Jane G. Connor of Hatche on January, 23, 1873; John Hampden, Jr., married Sara Walker in 1873; Ella married Lovick Feltus on February 28, 1861; Emma Jane married Reverend Dillon Lee on November 22, 1870; Mary Augusta married H.E. Upton on August 15, 1875; Annie Caroline married W.J. Rozier on June 8, 1881; Julia Marceline married Valle Ragburne on June 14, 1883. Cornelia, the author of The White Castle of Louisiana, a novel with the plantation “Nottoway,” and its surroundings as a setting, married Doctor William Murrell on June 27, 1883. Peter Everett and Sallie Virginia never married. Geneological Record of Bethia Liddell, Recorded by Frank L. Richardson, October 26, 1885, Randolph Collection.
tion, the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Texas, and other places. In 1852 a trip North cost him $450, another one in 1854 cost $720.75 and still another in 1856 cost $1250. Many of his visits to New Orleans were on business, and each time spent quite a sum of money. A trip thither on January 11, 1853, cost him $412; another on February 10, 1853, $304; and a third on March 10, 1853, $237.15

On one of his Hudson River trips the steamer "Henry Clay" was burned, and although Randolph escaped injury a great number of the travelers lost their lives. Mrs. Randolph in a letter to her father gave her husband's description of his escape from the burning steamer:

Mr. Randolph says that he was on the top deck at the time and seeing a dense volume of smoke coming from below he ran to the front of the boat, which was run ashore immediately, and he jumped twelve or fifteen feet to the ground. The boat was then one mass of flames. The ladies who were in the after part were nearly all lost. The scene, he says, was the most distressing ever witnessed. He supposes 150 souls must have perished by the fire and water. Mr. Randolph had also the good fortune to save his trunk, but lost his carpet bag.16

Last Island, off the Gulf coast of Louisiana, was quite a fashionable summer resort for the wealthy planter class at this time. Randolph and his family were frequent visitors to this island in the 1850's. On September 5, 1853, Randolph recorded an expense of $290 for a trip to

16 Emily J. Randolph to Moses Liddell, August 15, 1852. In possession of Mrs. L.B. Liddell.
In a letter to St. John Liddell, Francis D. Richardson (Randolph's brother-in-law) wrote, "Just returned from Last Island. J.H. Randolph and all his family were there and we spent a pleasant time. They [the Randolphs] have great reason to be proud of their family, for it is seldom we meet with one so large and all so sprightly and interesting." 18

Another resort of the planters was Mississippi City on the Gulf Coast. In a letter to St. John Liddell, Randolph wrote, "I reached home on the first of August (1854) after an absence of seven weeks... I visited the Virginia springs... We expect to start tomorrow for Mississippi City on the sea coast to spend about ten days." 19

Randolph was also very much interested in hunting. A large part of the 2000 acres that comprised Forest Home plantation was wooded. This and adjoining regions in the neighborhood of Grand River and Lake Natchez contained an abundance of wild game, including bear, deer, wild horses, and wild cattle. To St. John Liddell, Randolph once wrote, "I have fine sport now shooting deer in the in-the-back water. By wading up to my knees in water I can jump them up as thick as rabbits." 20 It is said that at one time wild bear were plentiful in the

17 Plantation Book, September 5, 1853, Randolph Collection.
18 Francis D. Richardson to St. John Liddell, September 3, 1855, in possession of Mrs. L.B. Liddell.
19 Randolph to St. John Liddell, August 8, 1854, in possession of Mrs. L.B. Liddell.
20 Randolph to St. John Liddell, August 11, 1844, in possession of Mrs. L.B. Liddell.
swamp lands of Iberville Parish, and in order to encourage them to stay in the area, Randolph grew corn on a tract of his land situated in the woods for the bear to feed on. Wild horses and cattle were in abundance at one time and he had great sport catching them.21 His close friend and neighbor, Paul O. Hebert, governor of the state from 1853 to 1857, was also a sportsman. In a letter to St. John Liddell, Randolph wrote, "Governor Hebert is anxious to take a hunt with you on Catahoula Lake and says he will go up in November, if I will go with him but I don't see how I can leave then as I will be in the midst of sugar making, and have no one here that I could leave in my place."22

Thus Randolph spent the less busy summer months traveling, hunting, and attending to minor details on the plantation, with the intervening time devoted to reading and keeping up with the stirring political events of the day. He was a subscriber to many newspapers and magazines including the Southern Sentinel, his local newspaper published at Plaquemine, the New Orleans Weekly Picayune, the Wilkinson Whig, the National Intelligencer, Harper's Magazine, the Quarterly Review, the Young America-

21 Interview with Mrs. William Whipple of Baton Rouge, June 24, 1936.
22 Randolph to St. John Liddell, August 8, 1854, in possession of Mrs. L.B. Liddell.
can, and for his wife, the Home Gazette and the Lady's Book. Two interesting books which Randolph bought, as perhaps did all other wealthy people of the time, were John James Audubon's great works, Birds of America and Quadrupedes. For the first he paid $166.67 and for the second $300. Due to the fact that he received his early education at Mrs. Audubon's school in West Feliciana Parish, he presumably had a dual purpose in acquiring the books.23

Randolph was a very religious man and belonged to the Episcopal faith. Throughout his expense books are numerous records of contributions to the church and it is believed that he was instrumental in establishing St. Mary's Church at Bayou Goula. On November 5, 1849, he gave C.A. Thornton $150 for bricks for that church, and on the following day $115 more for the same purpose. On April 5, 1850, he paid Nicol $100 for expenses on the church, and on October 27 of the following year he paid Mr. Lee $100 as his subscription to its support. All through the 1850's he gave large sums toward the maintenance of the church and the support of the pastor, and on March 15, 1859, paid $666 as an installment on the parsonage.24 A year earlier he gave to St. Mary's

24 Ibid., 1849-1859.
TWO VIEWS OF RANDOLPH'S TOMB IN ST. MARY'S CEMETERY

THE GATE TO ST. MARY'S CEMETERY
John H. Randolph gave the plot of ground for the cemetery in 1869.
Church his interest in the plot of ground, valued at $5000, which he had purchased from Mrs. Winn on March 30, 1857. He had not finished paying for the lot, so Mrs. Winn canceled the note and donated her share also.25 Ten years later, September 2, 1868, he gave to the church another plot measuring forty feet frontage on the Bayou Goula Road with a depth of 213 feet. The first piece of land was given as a building site for the parsonage, and the second strip was to be used for a cemetery.26 The "St. Mary's Cemetery," may be seen today as one travels along the Bayou Goula road. It is near where once stood Blythewood home before it burned in 1934. Randolph and his wife were buried there, as well as a number of their children, grandchildren, and other relatives. Randolph's grave is marked by a monument which stands above the others in the little cemetery. Randolph's other philanthropic donations were numerous. Once he gave $250 for a scholarship to a Plaquemine Seminary, and contributed frequently to an orphan asylum, presumably in New Orleans, operated by a Mrs. Butler.27

In 1856 Randolph decided to build a new home on his plantation fronting the Mississippi River. At this time other fine homes were being built in this section of Iber-

25 Record of Conveyance Book "5," no. 216.
26 Ibid., "9," no. 164.
27 Plantation Book, March 13, 1858; December 2, 1854, Randolph Collection.
ville Parish. The magnificent "Belle Grove," near the
town of White Castle, was erected in 1857, and the home
of the descendants of Joseph Erwin, just below Plaquemine,
was built in 1858. On June 12, 1856, he paid John Ben-
nett $150 for drawing up a plan for his newly planned re-
sidence, and a year later he contracted with Howard L.
Dietel, a New Orleans architect, to superintend the erec-
tion and completion of the house. According to the terms
of the contract, Randolph paid Dietel $1250 to design and
prepare all drawings and specifications, to employ work-
men, and to purchase certain materials needed in the con-
struction. Randolph paid this money in the following man-
ner: $150 when the drawings and specifications were pre-
pared; $300 when the framework of the dwelling was erect-
ed and the brickwork of the kitchen finished; $300 when all
the roofs were slated and floors laid; and $500 when the
building was finished. Furthermore Randolph paid Dietel's
traveling expenses to and from New Orleans during the pro-
cess of construction. The lumber used in constructing
the house was cut from Randolph's cypress swamp land, and
it was sawed and planed at his own mill.

28 J.G. Ewing, Know Louisiana (Baton Rouge, 1933), 71-73.
29 Plantation Book, June 12, 1856, Randolph Collection.
30 Contract, Randolph with Howard L. Dietel, June 8,
1857, Randolph Collection.
31 Interview with Mrs. H.E. Upton, July, 1935.
Randolph made a similar agreement with a carpenter, Timothy Joyce, who apparently caused him much trouble. On August 19, 1869, Henry Howard (evidently Randolph’s attorney in New Orleans) wrote to Randolph concerning Joyce:

"I regret to learn from yours of the fifteenth last of the great trouble you have with Mr. Joyce. I hardly know how to advise you in the matter, but would suggest (for your own benefit) to allow him to finish his contract with you. At this season of the year it is almost impossible to employ good carpenters. However, I will do my best to employ two good ones should I succeed, I will send them up immediately."32

In the contract Joyce had agreed "to do all work required in the finishing of the country residence, then in course of construction... according to certain elevations, plans and working drawings designed and prepared by Diettel ..., and according to such further working drawings and directions in explanation thereof as may be furnished from time to time." For this work Randolph paid him $3800, payable $40 per month for every good workman employed, and the balance when the job was finished. The contract further reads: "He (carpenter) shall work, dress, and stick all the floor and ceiling planks, mouldings, etc., (that may be required) with his own workmen."33

32 Henry Howard to Randolph, August 19, 1869, Randolph Collection.
33 Contract, Randolph with Timothy Joyce, June 9, 1868, Randolph Collection.
The next undertaking which confronted Randolph after the house was constructed was the problem of having it painted. On May 5, 1859, he drew up a contract with Messrs. Leguin and Corrainé whereby they agreed to execute all the painters' and glaziers' work for the sum of $650, and Randolph agreed to furnish all paint and other materials needed. 34

The windows of the house were equipped with rolling venetian blinds. The ornamental iron railings were capped with moulded handrails of appropriate design. The gallery floors were neatly laid down with white lead in the joints. Copper strips were nailed on the floors round the bottom of each antae and pilaster. The whole of the interior floors were worked, dressed and laid in the best manner with close and even joints. The hearths of the fireplaces had mitred borders. The skirtings (base boards) were made according to the drawings, all properly scribed and fitted to the floors. Knobs of wood were fixed into the skirtings behind each door, to prevent the lock handle from breaking the plastering. The rails and balusters of the stairs were made of mahogany. The doorways throughout the building were handsomely trimmed and finished. All windows were equipped with a pair of blinds well hung and secure. The pantry, china closet,

kitchen, store and wine rooms were fitted up in the
very best and most appropriate manner, with dressed
wood shelves, drawers, bakers and sash cases for the
china. There were two rain-water cisterns of 10,000
gallons capacity. The kitchen building was well con-
structed and finished with ceiled gallaries.35

The painters put four good coats on the entire
building and on all outhouses, both inside and out. Af-
ter the first coat was put on all nail holes, cracks,
and other irregularities of the surface were filled with
oil putty and smoothed down to an even surface. The gal-
lery floors were painted a stone color, and the windows
and blinds finished with Paris green. The cistern staves
and top were done in chrome green, the hoops in black.
The mahogany stair railings were handsomely varnished and
the rails were polished. The outside of the window sashes
were done in a rich brown or chocolate color, and the
rest of the building in plain white.36

The plastering job, executed by William G. Supple,
cost Randolph $1901.91.37 The home was fitted with an up-
to-date gas apparatus which produced a good quality of
light. In August, 1859, Randolph paid Harry Guild of New
Orleans $400 for this contrivance, and the balance of $400

35 Contract, Randolph with Joyce, June 9, 1858, Ran-
dolph Collection.
36 Contract, Randolph with Leguin and Corraine, May 5,
1859, Randolph Collection.
37 Bill for Plastering Randolph Home, June 20, 1859,
Randolph Collection.
in March 1860.

When completed the mansion presented a magnificent and elaborate type of Virginia architecture, strikingly beautiful in its own way. As seen today it is very much as it was in 1859. At the present time it is owned by Dr. Whyte G. Owen who lives in it with his family. There are fifty-one rooms, counting the modern kitchen built in 1916, 200 windows, with eighteen panes of glass each, and twenty-two white columns, sixty feet in height. "In the rear hall twelve slave bells, each with a different tone, were used to summon the servants." It has two principal floors with a basement and an attic. The basement is made of rustic white stucco, with small barred windows, which are rounded at the top. The front galleries have long square columns, eight in number, which run the height of the two principal stories. On the north side there is a rounded wing with columns running the height of both floors. The galleries are lined with elaborate cast iron railings. A pair of stone steps lead from the ground to the main entrance, the doorway of which Scott says is "massively ornate, illegitimate Greek, perhaps, though really with no positive derivative." 40

38 Agreement, Randolph and Harry Guild, August 11, 1859, Randolph Collection.
40 William P. Spratling and Natalie Scott, Old Plantation Houses In Louisiana (New Orleans, 1927), 63-66.
The interior of the home is impressive indeed. The plastering on the walls today is the same which Randolph put on in 1859. The most beautiful room in the house is the gorgeous White Ball Room. Everything in this room is white, the white tiled floors, delicately carved white Corinthian columns, white doorways and window frames, white marble mantel, and elaborate crystal chandeliers.  

Randolph decided that such a beautiful place could not exist without a name so he called it "Nottoway." Read says that "Nottoway" is an English corruption of "Nadowa," "rattle-snake," a term which was applied by an Algonquian tribe to an Iroquoian tribe of Southeast Virginia. Hodge said: "The Nottoway Indians resided on the river of the same name in Virginia. They called themselves "Chero enhaka," and were known to the neighboring Algonquian tribes as Mangoac (Mengive) and Nottoway, i.e., Nadowa, 'adders,' a common Algonquian name for tribes of alien stock." Linguistically, they were closely related to the Tuscarora. In Virginia there is a river and a county which perpetuate the name of this tribe of Indians. The Randolphs were supposed to have lived in Nottoway County, but in 1819 Judge Peter Randolph,

41 Ibid., 65-66.
42 Read, Louisiana Place-Names of Indian Origin, 44.
father of John Hampden, came directly from Lunenburgh County, which adjoins Nottoway, the line of demarcation between these two counties being the Nottoway River.

Nevertheless, Randolph named his home "Nottoway" and moved into it in 1859, only to have the complete happiness of living in the beautiful structure dimmed by the catastrophe of 1861, which interrupted the prosperous 1850's.

There was no doubt of the fact that Randolph's sympathies were with the South and three of his sons fought for the Confederacy. As mentioned in an earlier chapter the eldest son, Algernon Sidney, was killed during the siege of Vicksburg in 1863. His second son, Moses Liddell enlisted but in 1862 his Louisiana regiment disbanded to join the army of Virginia. Moses Liddell wanted to go with his regiment to Virginia but his mother persuaded him to stay at home as he was very young and was ill at the time. Besides his father needed him on the plantation. The third son, John Hampden, Jr. enlisted September 1, 1862 at New Roads, Louisiana. He was captured by the Federals and was paroled June 4, 1865.

Moses Liddell did not go back to war but went to Texas with his father and Hudson (it is assumed) when they took

45 Interview with Mrs. William Whipple, June 24, 1936.
SUSAN GREENE
Ex-slave of Franklin Hudson

HOUSE SERVANTS AT BLYTHEWOOD

Photography of picture taken in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Some of these negroes were former slaves of John H. Randolph.
the slaves and other property there. At this time Texas was still in the hands of the Confederacy, while the eastern section of Louisiana was under Federal control. In December, 1864, Randolph's list of negroes numbered 157, with only three of this number having absconded to the Federals. Toward the end of the war Randolph must have returned to Louisiana leaving Moses Liddell to work the land there and look after the slaves, and shortly before the war ended Moses Liddell had an opportunity to sell the negroes to a dealer in Cuba, but refused the offer and at the close of the war brought them back to Louisiana as freedmen along with $10,000 which he had made while in Texas. Years after an old negro on Blythewood plantation, who worked for Moses Liddell, often related his experiences while in Texas during the Civil War. 47

Susan Greene, who lives on Forest Home plantation today (1936), vividly remembers the trip to Texas. She belonged to Franklin Hudson at the time and was very young. The trip was made by wagon across country taking a long time to reach their destination. She was too young to be worked in the fields so was used as a house girl. According to her story they remained two years. 48

47 Interview with Mrs. William Whipple, June 24, 1936.
48 Interview with Susan Greene, July 7, 1936.
Louisiana history said that many other plantations in Louisiana were not deserted by the negroes. "Some of the most valuable slaves had been sent by their masters into Texas and Alabama." 49

Another soldier in the family was Randolph's brother-in-law and close friend, St. John Richardson Liddell. Liddell rose to the rank of brigadier general, commissioned on July 12, 1862. A lengthy and interesting discourse could be written here on the military exploits of General Liddell who took a prominent part in the war, but time and space does not permit. 50

Randolph did not go to war himself but was a strong supporter of the Confederacy. He helped out in a financial way and once subscribed $500 to a million and a quarter loan which was placed in the hands of the Committee on Public Safety for the defense of New Orleans against United States forces. 51 On January 24, 1861, he subscribed $100 to the "Bayou Goula Guards"; on April 16 of the same year he gave $10 to the "Shreveport Greys"; on June 1, 1861 he gave $20 to the "Irish Company"; on July 15, 1861 he gave $100 to J.A. Ventress' Company;

49 John R. Ficklin, History of Reconstruction in Louisiana (through 1868) (Baltimore, 1910), 126.
50 Fortier, Louisiana, II, 68.
and on the same day gave the same amount to Keeps' Cavalry Company. 52

In 1867, in order to become a qualified voter of the state, Randolph had to swear to a form warrant made out by the Register's Office of the State of Louisiana. It read as follows:

UNITED STATE OF AMERICA
State of Louisiana
Register's Office,
Parish of Iberville

Oath

I, John H. Randolph, do solemnly swear, or affirm, in the presence of Almighty God, that I am a citizen of the State of Louisiana, that I have resided in said State for twelve months next preceding this day, and also for three months in the parish of Iberville, in said State, as the case may be; that I am twenty-one years old; that I have not been disfranchised for participation in any rebellion or civil war against the United States, nor for felony committed against the laws of any of the United States; that I have never been a member of any State Legislature, nor held any executive or judicial office in any state, and afterwards engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the United States, and given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof; that I have never taken an oath as a member of Congress of the United States, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State Legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, and afterwards engaged in insurrection and rebellion against the United States, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof; that I will faithfully support the Constitution and obey the laws of the United States, and will, to the best of my ability, encourage others so to do. So help me God.

John H. Randolph

This oath was voted on and accepted April 18, 1868. 53

52 Plantation Book, January 24 to July 15, 1861, Randolph Collection.
53 Oath of Allegiance to United States of America in Order to Become a Qualified Elector of State, May 25, 1867, Randolph Collection.
At the time of its greatest extent Randolph's estate in Iberville Parish comprised over 7000 acres and included four sugar plantations and a considerable amount of swamp land. The four plantations were Forest Home, Nottoway, Blythewood and the Bayou Goula. In 1871 his land and moveables alone were valued at $80,150. From 1871 on the amount began to fluctuate as in that year he commenced to sell, though he re-acquired certain property only to lose it again. On March 24, 1871, he sold part of Bayou Goula plantation, which he had just bought on February 13 of the same year, to George Stevens for $2000. Stevens paid $1000 cash and gave two promissory notes for the balance each for $500 at eight per cent interest. The land sold was Lot seventy-eight of Township ten, Range twelve, East, and contained 178.33 acres.

On June 15, 1872, Randolph sold the whole of Blythewood plantation to his son Moses Liddell for $36,000, with Moses Liddell signing six promissory notes, each for $6000 payable on January 1 of the six following years.

54 Valuation of Property of Randolph and of Randolph and Hutchinson, 1871, from Assessment Roll of 1871, Randolph Collection.
55 Record of Conveyance Book "10," no. 308.
56 Ibid., "11," no. 179.
On the same day Randolph sold Forest Home plantation to his son, John Hampden, Jr. and his son-in-law, Lovick V. Feltus, each receiving an undivided half. The price for this plantation was $48,000, one half to be paid by each purchaser, each giving six promissory notes of $4000, and each promissory note falling due on January 1 of the years from 1873 to 1878. The plantations, Blythewood and Forest Home, were both mortgaged in favor of Randolph so as to secure payment. Despite this, Randolph sold his half of the swamp land, which he and Holmes Hutchinson had bought together in 1855 from the state of Louisiana, to John Hampden Randolph, Jr. for the sum of $1746.12. The amount of land transferred in this sale was 1428.72 acres. And, on the same day the other half of the Randolph-Hutchinson swamp lands was transferred to the heirs of Holmes Hutchinson. Still another sale was transacted on June 4, 1873, when he sold for $2250 the remainder of the Bayou Goula Plantation to J.W. Burbridge of New Orleans, represented by Jacob McWilliams of Iberville Parish, being Lots seventy-

57 Ibid., no. 178.
58 Ibid., no. 247.
nine, eighty, and eighty-one on Township ten, Range twelve, East, containing 1182.24 acres. 59

It order to make this an exhaustive study it would be necessary to make a trip to Haskell County, Texas, to find out how and when Randolph’s lands in that county were disposed of. The available records are not full enough to show what became of his property there, but on February 14, 1874, J.S. Stewart of Austin, Texas, who with Randolph owned two sections of land in Haskell County, wrote to Randolph telling him of an offer he had to sell the land. 60

It is assumed that Randolph accepted this offer.

Presumably, John H. Randolph, Jr. and L.V. Feltus did not succeed as sugar planters on Forest Home, because on March 11, 1874, they re-sold to Randolph, which in reality amounted simply to the cancellation of the debt owed by them to Randolph. And, on the same day John Hampden, Jr., returned the swamp land which he had purchased from his father the year before.

Sometime in his life Randolph acquired some land in Catahoula Parish, but when and how is not exactly known, however on October 23, 1878, he sold his three-fourths interest in this tract, which contained approximately 200

59 Ibid., no. 248.
60 J.S. Stewart to Randolph, February 14, 1874, Randolph Collection.
acres, to W.W. Walters for $1500. This land was situated about one mile above the town of Trinity on the south side of Little River and was a part of the Troy plantation. It had been conveyed to Randolph by Mrs. Charles Jones. Walters paid $375 in cash and gave two promissory notes for the balance of $1125, payable two years after date at eight per cent interest. 61

Randolph sold Forest Home plantation on January 7, 1879, to J.W. Burbridge, Thomas D. Miller, and T.L. Lyon of New Orleans, composing the commercial firm of J.W. Burbridge, and Company for $15,000. At the time Randolph was heavily indebted to Burbridge and actually received only $4500 cash. The firm held two notes against him, which were due at this time, one for $5500 and another for $5000. Besides these notes Burbridge and Company held three more notes against Nottoway plantation, amounting to $9000 in all, which they agreed to carry over one year and Randolph agreed to pay ten per cent interest in advance. At this time Randolph had a balance of only $975 with the firm. 62

This, perhaps, was the last large business transaction made. Randolph died on September 8, 1883, and on September 12 the Daily Capitolian Advocate of Baton Rouge carried this obituary notice:

61 Bill of sale, Randolph to W.W. Walters, October 23, 1878, Randolph Collection.
John Hampden Randolph, Esquire, a gentleman of the old school, the well-known prominent planter of the parish of Iberville, and father of our esteemed friend, Professor Randolph of the State University, died at his home, on last Saturday, at the ripe age of seventy years. He leaves a family of cultured daughters and sons, to whom, with their large number of friends, we extend our earnest sympathy in the great loss they have sustained.

After her husband’s death, on September 29, 1883, Mrs. Randolph petitioned for the possession and control of the estate. The petition read as follows:

The petition of Mrs. Emily Jane Randolph, widow of the late John H. Randolph of this parish represents that her said husband departed this life at his domicile in Iberville Parish September 8, 1883. That she was married to him on December 14, 1837. He leaves surviving him your petitioner and ten children, all of them of the age of majority; that the deceased left property real and personal situated in said parish all of which was acquired subsequent to their marriage and is community property. That his estate is full solvent, requires no administration, and she desires to be put into possession thereof, without benefit of inventory, as widow in community and to be recognized as the full owner of the undivided half and the usufructuary of the remaining hereof, as surviving widow in community. Wherefore the annexed affidavits being considered, petitioner prayed that she be put in possession of the estate of J.H. Randolph deceased. In full ownership of one undivided half as usufractuary during her natural life.

On January 7, 1886, Mrs. Randolph bought the St. Victoria plantation containing 190 acres from Emily Lee, widow of J.S. Rousseau, Sarah Rousseau, widow of J. Martinez, and Octave Rousseau, for $4500. She paid $1500

63 Daily Capitolian Advocate (Baton Rouge) September 12, 1883.
64 Record of Conveyance Book "17," no. 12.
cash and gave three promissory notes for $1000 each.

This plantation was situated in the rear of Nottoway and Magnolia plantations.65

Mrs. Randolph held on to her possessions in Iberville Parish until January, 1889. On the 29 of that month and year she sold all the land that was left, except the swamp lands, to Desire P. Landry and U.B. Dugas of Assumption Parish for $50,000. Landry and Dugas paid $15,000 in cash and for the balance gave seven promissory notes each for $5000, one in favor of Moses Liddell Randolph payable January 1, 1890; another in favor of John H. Randolph, also payable January 1, 1890; another in favor of Mrs. Annie Randolph Rosier, payable January 1, 1891; another in favor of Miss Sallie V. Randolph, payable January 1, 1891; another in favor of Mrs. Cornelia Randolph Murrell, payable January 1, 1891; another in favor of Mrs. Emma Randolph Dillon, payable January 1, 1892, and the last in favor of Mrs. Emily Jane Randolph, payable on the same date.66

65 Ibid., "18," no. 256.
66 The sale read as follows: "A certain sugar plantation situated in Iberville Parish on the right bank of the Mississippi River bounded above by lands of Joseph A. Rivet, Maurice Hanlon, Chambers, Austin Hunt, et al.; below by lands of Trahan and Daigle and Mrs. H. Hartmand, and in rear by land of Henry Baldwin, Mrs. Pauline Dupuy, et al., containing 1193 acres more or less, together with all buildings and improvements, rights of way, privileges and servitudes theron together with forty-three mules, and all other agricultural improvements and utensils attached to said plantation... and
All of the swamp lands which had been handed down to Randolph's heirs was sold by Moses Liddell Randolph, who had been appointed agent by them, on October 19, 1901 to

is composed of the following parcels of land (1) a certain tract of land... situated in Iberville Parish... containing three arpents front on said river and a depth of forty arpents running between parallel lines, bounded above by lands Joseph A. Gallagher, and below by lands of Austine Dubuilet; (2) Another tract of land situated in Iberville Parish, being Lot 78, Township ten, Range thirteen, East, containing 45.37 acres; (3) Another tract... situated in Iberville Parish and designated as Lot twenty-four, Township ten, Range twelve, East, containing 46.80 acres, being the three tracts which said John H. Randolph acquired of Firmin D. Landry; (II) A certain tract of land situated in Iberville Parish... measuring two arpents and 36 feet front... by 40 arpents in depth, bounded above by said Randolph and below by land of Dubuilet and Furand. Said property acquired by John H. Randolph from Mrs. Josephine Bougeois. (III) A certain tract... situated in Iberville Parish, west side of river at about 74 arpents from said river containing 70.14 arpents, bounded towards river by land of said Randolph and land of Dubuilet and Furand, below by land of Adam Hartman, above by land of E.J. Sigur and in rear by W.C.S. Ventress acquired from E.J. Sigur. (IV) (1) A certain tract of land situated... measuring one and one-half arpents front on said river by forty arpents in depth; bounded above by lands of E.L. Sigur and below by lands of Joseph A. Gallagher, and in rear by lands of Widow Gilbert Comeaux. (2) Another tract measuring two arpents front towards river, bounded in front by land of J.A. Gallagher, in rear by land of E.L. Sigur, above by land of widow G. Comeaux and below by land of John H. Randolph. Said two tracts acquired by public sale made by G.S. Rosseau, auctioneer. (V) Certain tract of land... at about forty arpents from margin of said river adjoining the tract of land purchased by said Randolph measuring two arpents front toward river, bounded above by E.L. Sigur, below by land above described, in rear by land of said Randolph, acquired from widow Gilbert Comeaux. (VI) Certain tract of land... measuring one and one-half arpents front on said river forty arpents depth, bounded above by said purchaser (Randolph), formerly T.N. Gallagher, below by land of said Randolph, and in rear by land of said Randolph, and is same property which Randolph acquired from J.A. Gallagher (VII) Lots 6, two and three of Section ninety-six, Township ten,
the L. Baist Cooperage Company of Plaquemine for $2100. This was the 3607 acres of swamp land which Randolph had purchased from the state of Louisiana in the 1850's. 67

Because the mansion "Nottoway" is still in existence and has not passed into oblivion as so many of the ante-bellum homes have done, particularly those near the banks of the Mississippi River, it is interesting to know through what hands it has been handed down to the present day. On January 18, 1899 it was sold at public auction for $100,000 to M.F.

Range twelve, East, containing 223.48 acres and is part of the same property acquired of said Randolph from E.E. Norton assignee of Foley, Avery and Company bankrupts. (VIII) Certain tract situated in the parish... designated as a portion of Section twenty-eight, of Township ten, Range eleven, East, bounded above by land of L. Cappoux, below by roadway reservation belonging to Mrs. Dupuy and in front by part of Lot twenty-eight belonging to J.R. Rivet, J.B. Peltier, and Mrs. W.H. Gilbert, containing forty-nine arpents, acquired by Mrs. Randolph from Mrs. Pauline Dupuy, (IX) Certain tract of land... being northwest corner of Lot two, Section ninety-four, Township ten, Range twelve, East, containing about 800 superficial feet, bounded on north by land of W.P. LaCroix, and west by land of W.C.S. Ventress. Acquired by Randolph from W.P. LaCroix. Belonged to community existing between Randolph and his widow... (X) Certain tract or plantation... about two miles below town of Bayou Goula in the rear of Nottoway and Magnolia plantations containing 190 acres, bounded in front towards river by Nottoway plantation, below by land of Nottoway plantation and above by Magnolia plantation of Maurice Hanlon. Said tract known formerly as St. Victorine Plantation. Record of Conveyance Book, "20," no. 403.

67 Ibid., "34," no. 38.
Landry and U.B. Dugas. Dugas and Desire P. Landry were the former owners, having purchased it from Mrs. Randolph, but Desire P. Landry for some reason decided to sell his interest so it was bought by his former partner and M.F. Landry. As these two owners were unable to pay the obligations they sold to Mrs. Marie F. Keith, and on March 2, 1909, Mrs. Keith sold to E.S., James D., and Alphonse Handon, in equally divided shares. The Hanlons paid $63,000, $20,000 in cash, assumed the payment of a promissory note for $10,000, and furnished seven promissory notes for the balance. Then, on March 5, 1913, Nottoway was sold to Doctor Whyte G. Owen for $54,000 at a sheriff's sale. Later Owen gave up an attempt to run the estate as a sugar plantation and sold most of the 1193 acres, keeping the home and only a few acres which surround it. He and his family have lived at Nottoway until the present time and have kept it in a splendid state of repair, so that today as the tourist drives along the river road he sees Nottoway, majestically facing the mighty river as it did, in all its splendor, in ante-bellum days.

68 Ibid., "40," no. 167.
69 Ibid., "41," no. 965.
ABSTRACT

John Hampden Randolph, a native of Virginia born in 1813 came to Mississippi with his parents in 1819. He grew up on his father's plantation in Wilkinson County and subsequently became a cotton farmer. This was his occupation in Mississippi until 1841 when he bought a plantation in Iberville Parish, Louisiana to which he moved in December of that year. For three years he raised cotton as a staple on his plantation, "Forest Home," but at the end of that time changed to sugar cane.

In the period prior to the Civil War and in the years shortly after its close, Randolph built up a large estate and in the meantime became a very successful sugar planter. By 1871 his landed possessions in Iberville Parish amounted to over 7000 acres which, however, included more than 3000 acres of swamp land. He also owned lands in the states of Iowa, Minnesota, and Texas. In 1858 he built a beautiful mansion on his plantation fronting the Mississippi River and named it "Nottoway," after the County in Virginia where his ancestors had lived.

During the Civil War Randolph held on to his land in Louisiana and Texas, and about 1863 took his slaves and other valuable property to Texas, where he cultivated his land in that state. After the war he returned to Louisiana with a number of the Negroes, many of whom continued to work for him
as freedmen.

The estate diminished in size in the 1870's and at the time of his death in 1885, Randolph owned only Nottoway plantation and his swamp land. His heirs disposed of these lands that remained.
APPENDIX
APPENDIX I

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF MOSES LIDDELL

I Moses Liddell of the Parish of Catahoula in the State of Louisiana in view of the uncertainty of life, and being of sound and disposing mind, do ordain and declare this to be my last will and testament.

1. I will that all my just debts be paid.

2. I will and bequeath to my son St. John R. Liddell from my natural regard and affection for him, my negro man Plenty, and his wife Betsy, Boy Pedro, (who has been raised by her from infancy) also woman Ellender and her two children George and Mose. I wish this to be over and above his portion of my property.

I have heretofore given and divided out to my children viz. to St. John R. Liddell, Emily Jane Randolph, Nancy C. Griffin, decd. and Bethia F. Richardson decd. about the year 1837 or 1838 a share of my property to each, which was equal to the hare of their mother's property when I married her in 1814, adding to said share such portion of acquits and gains of negro property as I have considered as nearly equal as possible reserving to myself an equal portion of what I then possessed, and turned over to my children as named, the shares of each as they required it. Since that period I have advanced
to each one of them certain sums of money and property at various times, of which I have kept but little account, leaving it to them to keep. I have aided and assisted my son St. John R. Liddell at various times. I have aided my daughter Nancy C. Griffin during her life time, and her husband Wm. S. Griffin, also with sums of money and also to her daughter Carolina Griffin in her infancy with advances on her account, and advances since. I have aided and assisted my daughter Emily Jane Randolph and her husband with money and property at various times, and I have aided and assisted my daughter Bethia F. Richardson, late wife of Francis D. Richardson with money and property and advances to her and her husband and assistance in establishing a sugar plantation in the Parish of St. Mary on the Bayou Teche of which I sold out to him on very favorable terms after the death of my daughter.

Now after these advances, and finding myself in debt to others to an amount of $6000 or $8000 and having some debts due and owing to me, and some property on hand, I therefore give and bequeath unto my son St. John R. Liddell 3rd in consideration of his attention to me in and during my illness, all my books, papers, house furniture, horses, mules, cattle and other effects except such as I may hereinafter reserve or mention.

4. My Brother James S. Liddell of Tippah County, Miss. is indebted to me some two to five hundred dollars by his note in my
possession which I freely give to him in consideration of the extra attention that he and his wife gave to my father during his last illness previous to his death, and he is forever acquitted of further payment of said note and interest.

5. I paid to John H. Randolph about the sum of $1200 on amount of which he had advanced for Carolina Griffin my granddaughter while she was at the Convent at New Orleans, as also some other amounts while she was at school at Bayou Goula, say two, $300 or more - all which I donate to him and reduce her share in my property now to be distributed.

6. That portion of my property consists in negroes, land in Texas and debts due and owing to me, which I wish to be divided into four equal shares, one of which I give to St. John R. Liddell, one share to Emily Jane Randolph, my daughter, and one share to the two children of my deceased daughter, B.F. Richardson late wife of F.D. Richardson and one half of the remaining share I give to my granddaughter Carolina Gillis, and the other half to be added to the tress previous shares and then divided among the three previous shares before a division of the aggregate amount. This I do considering it fair that I should do so. It is my wish that my Executors should claim commission as they may have some trouble and vexation in executing my will and wishes.

7. The property which I have before sold, and the debts due and owing to me therefor, I wish collected and divided amongst
my children and Heirs viz - St. John R. Liddell; Child of Nancy C. Griffin, decd., Carolina Gillis; Emily Jane Randolph wife of John R. Randolph; and the two surviving children of my daughter Bethia F. Richardson late wife of Francis D. Richardson, to be equally divided amongst them.

8. and last I do hereby nominate and appoint my son St. John R. Liddell and my son-in-law John H. Randolph my Executors of this my last will and testament, and I desire that no security may be exacted of them on this Bonds as such-

This done and signed by me in the Parish of Catahoula alone and by myself this 12th day of January A.D., 1855. I make all other and previous will.

Moses Liddell
APPENDIX II

STATEMENT OF RANDOLPH'S BUSINESS BY LINVALL

Statement of the debts of Jno H Randolph & C.J.

Thornton, to John Bacon & others, trustees of M.S. Bank.

Jno Bacon et als : Decree 30th Dec 1848 - for $16620.20

vs : Costs $27.75

C.J. Thornton et als :

Sarne : decree 30th Dec 1848, $10279.05

vs : Costs $39.75

John H. Randolph :

Sarne : decree 30th Dec 1898 $1675.30

vs : Costs $31.50

Jno H. Randolph :

Total of Judgments - $13316.55

Discount of the Debt - 20 percent 1/5 $2663.31

Cash payment of $2500 - leaves - $8153.24

note Int from 30th Dec 48 till pd

Divide this Balance into two notes at 10 percent Int.

First note - due 1st March Int at 6 per

Amt from 30th Dec 1848 - on half $284.36 $4361.97

Second note and Int at 6 percent, from 30th Dec. 1848

until 1st March 1851 - Int - $529.18 - 4606.46

Total of costs - $98.00

May 22d 1849

Woodville, Miss.

(Signed) N.F. Linwall
### APPENDIX III

**COTTON PICKING FOR WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21 TO 26, 1835**

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**Total**

|       | 672 | 680 | 814 | 1905 | 995 | 830 | 5016 lbs. |

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<td>Lucy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>125</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eloise</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patsy</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malinda</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total**

|       | 970 | 1350| 1465 | 1325| 1515| 1160 | 7411 lbs. |
### APPENDIX IV

**AN EXTRACT FROM PLANTATION BOOK FOR 1853–54**

**Plantation expenses in 1855**

1855

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 2nd</td>
<td>To Cash pd. S.M. Todd &amp; Co. for Paints</td>
<td>138.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>To dft. sent to F. Minor for Syd</td>
<td>125.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Ordered Hall and Lancy to give to Ellen</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>To Cash pd Waterman &amp; Co for Geo. Pitcher</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>To Exp. &amp; Cash expd. in New Orleans</td>
<td>52.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>To Cash pd for Catching runaway Auguste</td>
<td>6.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>To Mrs Vaughn for 1 ox</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>To 1/2 exp to Balch for pressing act</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>To frt. bill on Capitol to May 9th /55</td>
<td>152.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>To this amt. sent to Ed. Ladys Book to make a bracelet</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>To expenses to James N. Braun</td>
<td>12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>To Inv. on 100 Sacks Oats</td>
<td>165.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>To Cash pd Kennedy for Blacksmithing</td>
<td>67.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>To do &quot; Aft. Lyon to July 1st /55</td>
<td>360.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>To Inv. on 20 bags Lime</td>
<td>17.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>To do &quot; 20 Sacks Peas at $2.75</td>
<td>80.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 8</td>
<td>To W C S Ventress for read</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>To Bill of Cloth from . C deforel &amp; al</td>
<td>198.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4</td>
<td>To Bill of expenses to Missi City &amp; back</td>
<td>310.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Gave F A Hudson to pay His try bill</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Paid Morris on house painting (50$ due)</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>To Cash paid I Fenwick for 3 yoke oxen</td>
<td>135.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>To do do &quot; do 1/2 of a beef</td>
<td>9.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>To F A Hudson for Ice and Walnut plank</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>To 11 Mules &amp; 1 Mare lot from F.W.Combs</td>
<td>1560.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 25</td>
<td>G S Rousseau Recorder</td>
<td>7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>To A.E. Richards for Horse medicine</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>To exp. in Plaquemine</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>To Cash pd F.P. Tirrell for surveying</td>
<td>42.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>To do C B Lewis (by his order in for H.Austin &amp; cö)</td>
<td>86.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>To do Capitol frt. Bill to 17 June</td>
<td>79.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>To do Geo. Brooks for Copper Work contd</td>
<td>-230-ahead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 8</td>
<td>To 1 Box Shoes and 1 lb Turnip Seed sent by F.W.B. &amp; co.</td>
<td>78.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 18</td>
<td>To A.S. Randolph for travelling exp. &amp; clothes</td>
<td>156.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 19</td>
<td>To F. Minor for A.S. Randolph</td>
<td>150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 27</td>
<td>To 1 Sewing Machine &amp; Figures</td>
<td>155.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>To 550 yds Cotton Sheetimg from Penitentiary</td>
<td>53.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>&quot; 20 lbs Thread at 2 l/-</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>To C B Lewis for Carpenting Work to date</td>
<td>158.65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX V

STATEMENT OF CONFEDERATE MONEY PAID OUT BY
J.H. RANDOLPH FOR RANDOLPH AND HUDSON

1864

June 29  For old hoop iron and exp on Same $250.00
  " "  " Expenses to Houston about Train 70.00
  " 29  " " " " Train 155.00
  "  " Freight on 2 a cut saws 10.00
July 14  For Passage to Houston 45.00
  15  " Bill at Houston 1 day 30.00
  21  " Passage to Branham 45.00
  "  " 1. Shoe Knife 25.00
Sept 3  " Pd Caldwell confed. money for Train 78.00
  10  " Expenses to Houston and back 150.00
  "  " 20 sides of Leather $2050.00
  "  " 10 lbs Copperas 120.00
  "  " 5 balls Shoe Thread 20.00
  "  " Freight to Branham 450.00
  13  " Paid Caldwell to defray Exp of Train 180.00
Nov 23  " Confederate State Tax for 1864 3958.75
  "  "  " Soldiers Tax for 1865 1837.50

1865

March 8  " State Tax 995.37
  Feby 25  " Mrs. Caldwell 600.00
            1/6 of amt due F.A. Hudson 8 $11067.62
            Amt due J.H.R. by F.A.H. $1383.45
            Amt due by F.A. Hudson his 2/3 of H and R's
            a/c $491.50 $245.65
            F.A.H. Credit by cash paid of his own funds 1629.10
            $561.00 561.00
March 20/65 Amt due J.H.R. on settlement of
            F.A.H. $1068.10

The above account acknowledged to be correct
& settled this 20th day of March 1866

E.O.E. (Signed)  F. A. Hudson
                Jno. H. Randolph
## APPENDIX VI

### WOOLEN JACKETS AND SOCKS GIVEN OUT TO NEGROES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Jacket</th>
<th>Socks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 17</td>
<td>Fiddler George</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tom Johnson</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anthony</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>William (H.)</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Peter</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John D.</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amos</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lannon</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Johnny</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fort</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yellow Jack</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>David</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marsel</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jacko</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Philo</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Archey</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>George Bark</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ben</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Henry</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Big Alford</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Little George</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Teen</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jo Cocker</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nealy</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cyrus</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lefenwill</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aaron</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Long William</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cooper Henry</td>
<td>Took cloth</td>
<td>Do (3 yds. of W.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Charles</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Farm</td>
<td>Jacket</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cooper William</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wash</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nathaniel</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Big Nick</td>
<td>Cloth</td>
<td>Do (3 yds. W.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Little Nick</td>
<td>Jacket</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 20</td>
<td>Lewis</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bill Bostwick</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nelson</td>
<td>Cloth</td>
<td>Do (3 of W.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sampson</td>
<td>6 yds.</td>
<td>Cloth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ike Killis</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hutchinson</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Isaac</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ceazar</td>
<td>6 yds.</td>
<td>Cloth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX VII

TAXABLE PROPERTY IN 1867

Mr. John H. Randolph —

Please furnish me with a list of all your taxable property, or that for which you are the Executor, Tutor, Trustee, Administrator, or Agent according to Law.

E.A. Arceneaux, Assessor.

Quantity of Land you own.......................... 7116 acres
* in cultivation................................. 800 *
* Cane........................................... 400 *
* Corn........................................... 400 *

No. of hhd's, of sugar, made last year......... 260 *

Barrels of molasses ................................ 500 *
* corn ........................................ 1200 *

-----------------------------------------------

MALE SLAVES 88 FEMALE SLAVES 88

From birth to 5 yrs............. 10 From Birth to 5 yrs..... 11
* 5 to 10 yrs..................... 8 * 5 to 10 yrs..................... 9
* 10 to 15 yrs................... 6 * 10 to 15 yrs................... 7
* 15 to 45 yrs................... 49 * 15 to 45 yrs................... 49
* 45 and above................... 14 * 45 and above................... 12

-----------------------------------------------

Number of horses.................. 15 Shares of stocks or interest in Steamboats or any kind of water craft
* mares ....................... 7 Money loaned on interest $5000
* mules ...................... 53 Capital invested in traffic 0
* jacks & jennies ......... 0 State your profession if taxable.
* Horned cattle .......... 76
* 2 or 4 wheeled carriages.. 2

I hereby certify to the correctness of the above list.

Iberville, Louisiana

Signed, John H. Randolph

July, 1857
TAXES ON NOTTOWAY PLANTATION, 1871

STATE OF LOUISIANA—PARISH OF IBERVILLE

No. 1021

M. John H. Randolph

From Assesment Roll of 1871. Due in 1872

Valuation of Land and movables $49,150 State Taxes $1056.72

Money Loaned at Interest Poll Tax

Capital invested in traffic Parish tax 344.05

Parish school tax 73.72

Special Judgment tax 245.75

Notice .25

Total 1720.50

Take Notice that your State and Parish Taxes for the year 1872, amounting to $1720.50 are due, and demanded of you as directed by Law, and if not paid at my office in Plaquemine, La. within ten days from the service of the present notice the same will be levied according to Law.

PARISH OF IBERVILLE 1872

Robert C. Hebert, Tax collector.
TAX COLLECTOR’S OFFICE,

Parish of Iberville La.

May 21 1873

To Randolph and Hutchinson of the Parish of Iberville

You are hereby notified that your State Taxes for the year 1872 are now due and unpaid, and if not paid in twenty days from service hereof, I will proceed to seize and sell property to satisfy the same, and all costs, as required by law. See statement below.

Bring this notice when you come to pay.

Valuation of Property, $2714

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Tax</td>
<td>21½ mills, $58.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Tax</td>
<td>1&quot;, 2.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notice</td>
<td>.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 61.31
LIST OF ARTICLES ON FOREST HOME PLANTATION January 26, 1875

1 buck eye moving machine, 10 ld jogle, 2 wagons, 3 carts, 1 water bag, 3 Bagas carts out of repair, 4 Diamond tooth harrows, 4 Double Shovle Plows, 8 two horse plows, 2 right and 1 left hand four horse plows, 2 corn planters, 1 Single horse plow, 3 Grass Scythes, 1 Grinding stone, 1 Hatchet, 2 Handsaws, 1 Boring machine and 3 bits, 1 Carpenters mallet, 6 Augers, 2 Foot addges, 12 Carpenter Plains, 1 Monkey Wrench, 1 Pr. Compasses, 2 Crow Bars, 1 Spirit level, Scribe, 1 Large screw plate and 5 bits, 1 Gass Pipe Screw Plate, 1 Coopers Rope, trusshoops for Hhds, Bbls, and half bbls, 8 Draw knives, 1 Brace and 2 bits, 1 mallet, 1 Bung cutter, 1 Champion knife, 5 cooper plains, 1 Whetstone, 1 Bign Chisle.
1 Little chisle, 1 Block and Tacle compleat, 3 Cant Hoops, 2 Hand spikes, 3 Pr. Blacksmith's tongs, 1 Sulphon Puley, 7 Wood brakes, 1 Pea Roller, 1½ Barrels cole tar, 4 skimmers, 3 sugar house lamps and 5 chimneys, 10 set geeving, 1 set hammer, Cane knives, Axes, Weed hoes, Grub hoes, Frows, Croscut Saws, Spades, Shovels, 3 Circular knives, 6 Head of Cattle, 8 Mules, Sheep, 1 Sledge hammer. 1

1 Copied verbatim, but written in Randolph's handwriting.
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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Interviews

The author had interviews with the people listed below, some of whom are descendants of John Hampden Randolph and others of whom were acquainted with him and knew something about the life on his plantations.

Mrs. Moses Liddell Randolph, wife of Moses Liddell Randolph, second child of John Hampden Randolph.

Mrs. H.E. Upton, sixth child of John H. Randolph.

Mrs. William Whipple, granddaughter of John Hampden Randolph.

Dr. Whyte G. Owen, the present owner of Nottoway Place.

Virginia Owen, granddaughter of Dr. Whyte G. Owen.

Mrs. L.B. Liddell of Baton Rouge, La.

Susan Green of Forest Home Plantation, a former slave of Franklin Hudson.
BIOGRAPHY
BIOGRAPHY

Paul Everett Postell was born April 15, 1910, in Plaquemine, Louisiana. He attended elementary and grammar school in Sulphur, Louisiana, and later the high schools of Sulphur, Baton Rouge, and Plaquemine. After being graduated from the latter in June, 1927, he entered Louisiana State University in the fall of the same year. He received the degree of Bachelor of Arts from that University in June, 1932. He began his graduate work in history, but discontinued it to study Library Science, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Science in Library Science in June of 1935. At present he is employed as Assistant Librarian in Charge of Public Documents in the Louisiana State University Library.
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Thesis Report

Name of Candidate: Paul Everett Postell

Major Field: History

Title of Thesis: John Hampden Randolph: A Southern Planter

APPROVED:

[Signatures]

Major Professor and Chairman

Dean of the Graduate School

EXAMINING COMMITTEE:

[Signatures]

Date: August 1, 1936