Plantation name: Woodbourne

Horry County, South Carolina

Location – Junction of Waccamaw River and Bull Creek.

Origin of name – Named by J. Motte Alston.

Other names – Tip Top.

Current status – No buildings extant.

Comments – The land which became Woodbourne derived from two tracts granted in 1735. One tract of 243 acres was granted to John Allston on 4 June 1735 and another tract of 1,085 acres was granted to Rev. Daniel Dwight on 3 September 1735. It was J. Motte Alston (1821-1909) who acquired 600 acres of the above mentioned land and named it Woodbourne in 1840/41 and turned it into a rice plantation. It was purchased in 1858 by Capt. Henry Buck of Upper Mill Plantation. Buck called it Tip Top.

Number of acres – 600

Primary crop/crops – Rice


Slaves –
87 are listed in the 1850 Slave Schedules as being owned by J. Motte Alston.
312 are listed in the 1860 Slave Schedules as being owned by Capt. Henry Buck, who also owned Upper Mill Plantation.

J. Motte Alston wrote in his book, on page 57, that “There were on my father’s places some 400 negroes, more or less; on Woodbourne from 100 to 150 as the years rolled by.”

Bill of sale for 79 slaves bought by Jacob Motte Alston from Catherine Prioleau on December 19, 1846.

List of Negroes Belonging to J. Motte Alston Esq. - slaves listed for sale by Alston in the account book of Charleston slave trader Alonzo White, December 1859 - lists 82 slaves.

Buildings –
A two room bachelor’s house was built on Bull Creek before the main house was erected about 1½ miles away.

The twelve room main house was completed in 1849 by Alston’s carpenter Richmond.

References –
1850 Slave Schedules of Horry District, South Carolina.
1860 Slave Schedules of Horry District, South Carolina.

Submitted by: J. Benjamin Burroughs, Research Specialist, Coastal Carolina University.