

CHEEROKEE





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When William Robertson Coe decided to create a Low Country hunting retreat, he chose as its site the Board House Plantation, an eleven thousand acre tract of land which had been assembled by the Blake family from the early eighteenth century. Said to have been founded in 1710, the first recorded grant of land on the banks of the Combahee River was made to Henry Quintyne in 1714 by the Lords Proprietor. This grant of 500 acres included the site of the Cherokee boathouse. Quintyne died in 1716 in the Yemassee War, and his lands were inherited by his sister Mary, the wife of William Bull I who served as lieutenant governor of the colony from 1738 to 1755. Somehow, Joseph Blake ended up with this parcel and in 1731, King George II granted him another 3,933 adjacent acres. The King was again generous to Blake in 1732 and 1733 as well.

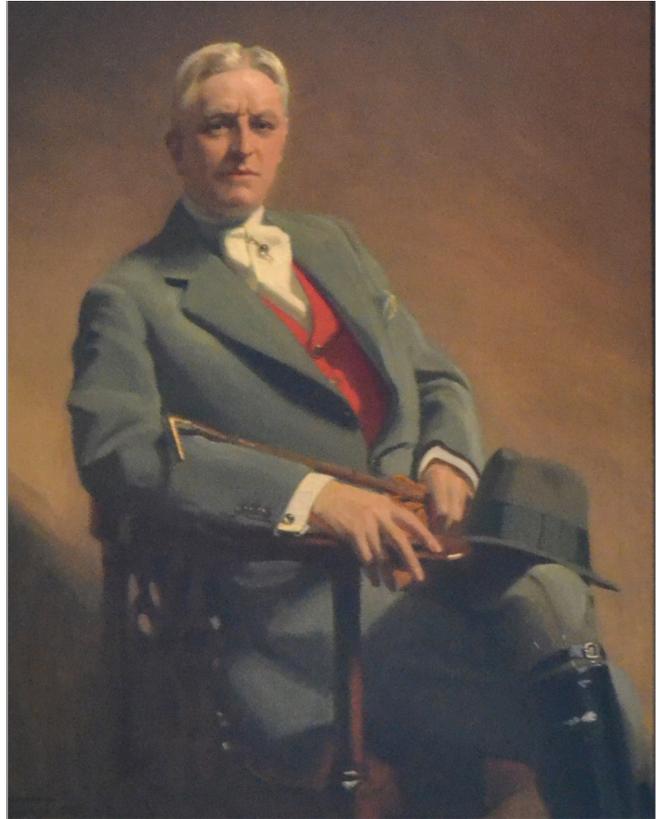


The Joseph Blake who first owned lands which became Cherokee lived from 1700 to 1751. His grandfather, Benjamin Blake, had emigrated from England to South Carolina in 1683 and subsequently served on the Grand Council until his death in 1689. Benjamin's son, known as Colonel Joseph, served as a Proprietor and twice as governor of the colony. However, he died in 1700, the same year his son by the same name and also known as Colonel was born. The second Colonel Joseph Blake served as Proprietor and Landgrave until Parliament abolished the original proprietorship and established South Carolina as a Royal Colony in 1729. His property, including that on the Combahee, passed to his son, Daniel, who was born in 1731 and also served as a member of the colonial council.

Daniel Blake had no children at his death in 1780 and his properties passed to his brother William who was eight years his junior. William bought and sold various lands and added Kinloch and Bonny Hall plantations to the family holdings in the area. He was in England in 1774 where he joined a protest against the Stamp Act and remained there throughout the Revolution. He was amerced as a Royalist but did not lose his South Carolina lands as a result. They were sufficiently extensive that what became Board House passed to his second son, another Daniel Blake who was born in 1775, educated at Cambridge, and the first to call the property Board House. At his death in 1834, the plantation passed to the third Daniel Blake in the line.



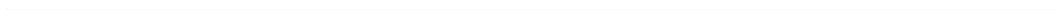
This Daniel, born in 1803, was also educated at Cambridge but made his home at Board House and at The Meadows in the North Carolina mountains. In 1860, Board House Plantation produced 1,125,000 pounds of rice and 5000 bushels of corn plus peas, beans, sweet potatoes, hay, and wool. The plantation included 11,334 acres at the time and was worked by 559 slaves. Some sources report that the Board House burned in 1860 and was rebuilt. All agree that the Board House was one of the casualties of the War Between the States. It is unclear whether it was burned in June 1863 when Union forces steamed up the Combahee River destroying homes and crops as they went or whether it survived long enough to be the victim of William Tecumseh Sherman, who, after reaching the sea at Savannah, marched north towards the South Carolina capitol in February 1865, wreaking havoc and revenge along the way.



W. R. Coe at Cherokee in 1931.
Courtesy of the Planting Fields Foundation

The prosperity of South Carolina's rice plantations was destroyed by the War. Rice production fell more than 60 per cent between 1860 and 1870 in Colleton County and farm values there fell by more than 75 per cent during the same period. To rebuild his home and continue farming, Daniel mortgaged the plantation to his brother Arthur who lived in England. In 1870, he conveyed his lands, mining interests in Georgia, and his claim against the Charleston & Savannah Railroad for damages incurred when the track was built through his lands to his son Frederick who was charged with paying his father's debts from the property conveyed. Daniel died at his summer home in the North Carolina mountains in 1873. His rebuilt home is today known as the Antebellum Cottage on the plantation grounds.

Daniel's will named Frederick and a friend as executors. Arthur sued the executors and the Colleton County sheriff conveyed Board House to Arthur in May of 1875. Arthur reconveyed a life interest to his nephew in October of that year, leading some to speculate that the suit and subsequent conveyance were efforts to protect Board House from Daniel's other creditors during those uncertain times. After Frederick's death in 1907, the remainder passed to his wife who lived until 1920 and ultimately to his granddaughters Ayliffe Blake Muford and





Caroline Graham Coe.
Courtesy of the Planting Fields Foundation

Robert Falligant of Savannah, a Confederate veteran who, like Frederick Blake, had fought for the Confederacy in the Battle of Cold Harbor. Jane died while visiting family in Savannah in January 1899 and later that year Coe met Mai Huttleston Rogers on a transatlantic crossing. They married in June 1900 and had four children, William Rogers, Robert Douglas, Henry Huttleston Rogers, and Natalie Mai. While his rise at Johnson & Higgins was meteoric, his marriage to Mai was probably as important to his building ambitions. She was the daughter of Henry Huttleston Rogers, a vice president of Standard Oil and the builder of the Virginian Railway, remembered as the “richest little railroad in the world.”

By 1910, the Coes had three young sons and an infant daughter and he apparently decided they needed a place to roam. Beginning what would be a lifelong fascination with the American West, Coe purchased Irma Lake Lodge, the 492 acre hunting retreat of Wild Bill Cody adjacent to the Shoshone National Forest in Wyoming. He also began amassing a collection of Western Americana which was donated to Yale University in 1948. Coe’s connections with the state included funding for the W. R. Coe Memorial Hospital in Cody and the library at the University of Wyoming in Laramie.

Olivia Blake Schley and grandson Daniel Blake. On May 13, 1930, the heirs conveyed the 10,979 acre Board House Plantation to Caroline Graham Coe of New York, bringing to an end two centuries of Blake ownership of the plantation.

Caroline Graham Coe was the third wife of William Robertson Coe. Born in 1869, Coe and his parents and nine siblings emigrated to the United States in 1883. The family settled near Philadelphia and, at age 15, Coe became a clerk at an insurance office in that city. When the Philadelphia firm was acquired by Johnson & Higgins, he moved to New York City where he became manager of the adjusting department. Founded in 1845, the firm brokered insurance, primarily in the marine market. In fact, it had brokered the policies insuring the Titanic. Coe’s rise in the firm was swift and by 1916, he was chairman, a title he held until 1943.

He first wed in 1893. His bride was Jane Hutchinson Falligant, daughter of Judge



His youngest son, Henry, married a young lady from Cody and became a lifelong resident. In 2009, Irma Lake Lodge was purchased by Bill Gates.

In 1913 the Coes apparently decided they needed more room closer to home and purchased 350 acres at Oyster Bay, Long Island. The existing house on the estate was lost to fire shortly thereafter and in 1919, the Coes retained Walker & Gillette to design a sixty-room Tudor Revival mansion. They were familiar with the firm as it had designed the nearby Black Point for Mai's brother in 1914. The firm was responsible for a number of homes on Long Island and at Tuxedo Park as well as numerous banks and commercial buildings in Manhattan. The Coes named the estate Planting Fields. The house bears a strong resemblance to Hever Castle, childhood home of Anne Boleyn, and is said to contain woodwork from one of her homes. Charles Duveen and Elsie de Wolfe were involved with the interiors.



Coe Hall, Oyster Bay, Long Island.
Courtesy of the Planting Fields Foundation

The Coes also began a long relationship with the Olmsted Brothers firm which was retained to design gardens for the estate. Although the great Frederick Law Olmsted had died in 1903, his sons John Charles and Frederick Law, Jr., continued the firm which became one of the most successful and influential landscape architecture practices in the United States in the first half of the 20th century. Their first partner was another Bostonian, James Frederick Dawson, who did extensive work at Planting Fields.

Shortly after Planting Fields was completed in 1921, Coe took up the sport of kings with a vengeance. He purchased land immediately north of Lexington, Kentucky, and established Shoshone Stable, named after his Wyoming outpost. One of his first purchases was The Finn for whom he paid the then record price for a stud. The Finn had won the Belmont Stakes in 1915 and sired two Kentucky Derby winners, Zev in 1923 and Flying Ebony in 1925. However, The Finn was not to be the foundation of Coe's stable, dying two years later. Pompey became the foundation of the stable and in 1933, four Coe horses qualified to run in the Kentucky Derby: Ladysman, Pomponius, Pomposity and Pompoleon. Ladysman, the favorite, placed fourth followed by stablemate Pomponius. Although he never won the Derby, Coe's





Robert A. Cusachs.
Courtesy of the Library of Congress

Black Maria won the Kentucky Oaks in 1926. Whether a result of his failure to win the Derby in 1933 or his growing interest in other pursuits, Coe sold Shoshone in 1936 and dispersed his stable.

He had plenty going on. Mai Coe died after an extended illness in 1924. In 1926, Coe married Caroline Graham Slaughter, ex-wife of E. Dick Slaughter, a Texan with interests in oil, cattle, and real estate. He and his brother were said to have owned a large part of Cochran County, Texas. Caroline was from Austin and her mother's family was from Alabama where her grandfather, Robert Fullwood Ligon, had served as lieutenant governor and as a congressman. She, like Mai Coe, was extremely interested in gardening. It is not known if Caroline's southern background or Coe's contact with the area through his first wife led them to South Carolina or whether they simply became caught up in the rage for hunting lands which had been fashionable among wealthy northeasterners since the turn of the century. Whatever the impetus, on May 13,

1930, Caroline took title to the 10,979 acres of Board House Plantation.

The house that Daniel Blake had rebuilt after the War was not sufficient for a group which called Planting Fields home, maintained a residence on Fifth Avenue, and owned Buffalo Bill's hunting lodge. To remedy the situation, the Coes immediately retained Manhattan architect, Robert Allain Cusachs, to design a suitable accommodation for them at the plantation which they renamed Cherokee after the wild rose which grew on the grounds. They also brought James F. Dawson of the Olmsted Brothers firm to design the grounds of their new home. Design began immediately and construction soon followed.

Why Cusachs was chosen rather than Walker & Gillette is unknown. He was a native of Louisiana who graduated from Tulane and in 1911 entered the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, following a long line of distinguished American architects which included Leon Gillette. At various times, he practiced with his brother-in-law and fellow Ecole graduate, Raymond F. Almirall, and they were responsible for various churches, libraries, and other public buildings, primarily in Brooklyn. Like many of his fellow graduates of the Ecole, he was deeply involved in the Society of Beaux-Arts Architects in New York. This institution played an important part in architectural education during the first part of the 20th century, sponsoring competitions for students from universities around the



country. Its highest honor, the Paris Prize, was awarded to the top student nationally and enabled that student to attend the Ecole in Paris. Cusachs was sufficiently esteemed by his colleagues to serve on the committee which judged this competition. Much of the money to send the Paris Prize winner to the Ecole was raised by the Beaux-Arts Ball, a gala affair held annually in New York. Cusachs achieved most notoriety during his lifetime in 1929 when he appeared in a tableau as the Emperor Napoleon escorting Ethel Barrymore as Josephine in a pageant he produced with Ben Ali Haggin, grandson of the great horseman of the same name. Cusachs died of a heart attack at age 44 shortly after photographing the completed Cherokee in April, 1931.



Sabine Hall, land facade.



Mount Airy, river facade.

Another unknown is why the Coes and Cusachs chose Virginia models for a South Carolina plantation. They chose Landon Carter's Sabine Hall for the north facade and the Tayloe mansion, Mount Airy, for the south. They were not alone in this conceit. Another prominent New York classicist, William Lawrence Bottomley, was building Rose Hill in Albemarle County, Virginia, based on the same 18th century houses at the same time while noted Chicago architect, David Adler, was having his way with two other Northern Neck houses, Stratford Hall and Gunston Hall, for Evelyn Marshall Field in Syosset, New York.

Both Sabine Hall and Mount Airy are located on the Northern Neck of Virginia between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers. Sabine Hall was built beginning in 1729 but took its current form in the 19th century when its roof was lowered and the front portico, rear porch, shutters, and a coat of white paint were added to mask its early Georgian architecture in a crisp neoclassical disguise. Later, when the house was shared by two branches of the family, it was converted into a five-part Palladian composition with extremely long hyphens connecting to newly constructed dependencies. The Tayloe plantation, Mount Airy, was constructed beginning in 1748 and was based on a five-part design from James Gibbs' *Book of Architecture* published in London in 1728. Its roof has also been lowered, in this instance as the result of a fire in 1844. It is fascinating to see how Cusachs took various features from the two houses and melded them into the unified design seen today.



In the first instance, the central blocks of both houses are seven bays wide, rest on raised water tables, and have belt courses between the first and second floors. For the north facade of Cherokee, Cusachs copied the portico from Sabine Hall and the floor plan incorporating four matching chimneys on the exterior walls. For the rear, he copied in brick the stunning three-bay loggia from the rear of Mount Airy. Rather than Mount Airy's curved dependencies, he chose to replicate the later extended connectors found at Sabine Hall.

The most fascinating features of the original Sabine Hall were the wide stone lentils and sills which extended well past the window frames. The space between them was laid with rubbed brick while the rest of the walls was laid with highly glazed headers emphasizing the Flemish bond. While other fine Virginia houses of the period such as Westover and Wilton used rubbed brick to emphasize openings, the lentils and sills at Sabine Hall were unique. To make sure no one missed the point, the builders included heavy keystones above each opening.

To memorialize this element of the source but to maintain the later neoclassical facade which paint had produced at Sabine Hall, Cusachs employed soldier-courses in place of the lentils and straight-laid brick on either side of the openings. The keystones were repeated and originally were white rather than the current dark green.

Cusachs' efforts to reference the Baroque rusticated stonework which surrounded the front and rear entrances at Sabine Hall were somewhat less successful, possibly because Coe required him to use the magnificent door and aedicule with broken pediment on carved brackets which is seen today. The brick work is again subtle but emphasized, especially the keystone, and the lengthened window above attempts to unify the design consistent with the vertical thrust supplied by the stonework in the original. Somehow, particularly with the dark green paint behind the pediment, one cannot help but suspect that Coe found the door, was overcome by its beauty, and couldn't resist using it whether it fit the space or not. Unfortunately, the original plans for the house have been lost and the answer will remain a mystery. One place where Cusachs seems to have given a nod to early South Carolina architecture is in the dependencies. They have double-hip roofs, a feature not found on any Virginia dependency of the period but seen at the rice house at Middleton Place.

The Coes also called in Olmsted Brothers in the person of James F. Dawson, to assist them with the grounds. Dawson had grown up at the Arnold Arboretum where his father was superintendent. After studies at Harvard, he entered the Olmsted office in 1896 and was the first partner taken by the brothers in 1922. At Cherokee, he was responsible for siting of the house, designing the entrance lawn, utility construction, road construction, creating the lake to the south of the house, and placing and overseeing the planting of thousands of plants, from mature trees to paperwhite narcissus bulbs. He had long experience from working at Planting Fields and from surviving correspondence, he, Cusachs, and the Coes got along well and enjoyed the process of constructing the home and landscaping its grounds.



The bulk of the project at Cherokee was completed with remarkable speed. Caroline Coe took title to the plantation on May 13, 1930, and the Coes entered a contract with Cusachs dated July 8, 1930. The Blake house was still standing where the new house was to be built in September. By April 30, 1931, Cusachs was taking pictures of the completed interior of the house which was furnished down to the silver on the table. Not everything went as smoothly. There was considerable correspondence about the shape of the shoreline of the lake below the house and various plants either did not arrive, did not arrive as ordered, or did not survive. The biggest bone of contention was the drive in front of the house. Cusachs and Dawson wanted it to be 60 feet wide with magnolias planted in the gravel emphasizing the corners of the main block of the house. Their aesthetic reason was that the house be seen through the trees. On the practical side, they wanted enough room for a car to turn around in front of the house. Coe would have none of it and the drive remains 30 feet wide to this day and the view of the house is not seen through trees on the approach. Only once did Coe complain about costs, sending a telegram to Dawson in February 1931 when road work was continuing that he was staggered by the cost. He soon relented and work proceeded. The Coes were apparently so pleased with the house that they had the facade replicated for the backdrop of his daughter Natalie's debut in the Crystal Ballroom at the Ritz in New York in December, 1930.

Sabine Hall and Mount Airy had similar interior layouts. Their four primary rooms were separated by wide central halls which ran their depth and the stairs were located in separate halls between the two rooms on the left. Cusachs modified this plan by having the stair ascend up the east wall of the hall to a landing above the front door from which it completed its ascent to the second floor. The area below the landing is separated from the rest of the hall by a small vestibule which provides access to Coe's gun room. It opens through an elliptical arch to the main hall which is divided from the rear half of the hall by a similar arch. Third and fourth arches provide entry to cross halls which provide access to the service wing on the east and to the drawing room, library, and den on the west. The rear of the hall is lit by three arched windows which give an unimpeded view through the loggia to the lake beyond. Double doors below broken pediments resting on pulvinated friezes open from this space to the drawing room and dining room.

The woodwork in the main and rear halls is pine and today the dado has been painted to match. The dining room received a similar treatment with the addition of a black marble mantel and a set of the French woodblocked wallpaper panels entitled *La Chasse de Compiègne*. First manufactured in France in 1814 by Jacquemart et Berard to designs by Carl Vernet, it is composed of 25 panels depicting a stag hunt at the Chateau Compiègne, a favorite retreat of various French kings and later of Napoleon. Another set of the panels is in the collection of the Victoria & Albert Museum in London. The ceiling in the dining room, as well as those in the drawing room and library, is coved to allow recessed lighting behind the cornice, a very modern feature in the 1930s.

The highlight of the interior is the pine-paneled drawing room. The antique paneling is said to have come from an English castle. The English part is easy to believe but if it came from a castle, it



was one which had some very stylish remodeling in the mid-18th century. While the dado is covered with unembellished horizontal planks, the space above the chair rail has raised panels and the cornice features egg and dart molding above dentil blocks and a foliate carving on its highest member which is repeated around the panels of the doors. A delicately carved pine mantel completes the ensemble. If Cusachs did not design the room around the paneling, some cabinetmaker clearly did a superb job making it fit.



The library is located across the side hall opposite the drawing room. Partially paneled, it features elaborate carvings in the manner of Grinling Gibbons above the yellow marble mantel. Contrary to some published assertions, photographs from 1931 show that the horns which are now attached to its shelf may be interesting but they are not original to the mantel. At the end of this hall, the hyphen is occupied by an informal den or game room with beamed ceiling. This room leads to the west dependency which now contains five bedrooms and baths which supplement the four on the second floor of the main block.

W. R. Coe was 62 years old when Cherokee was completed and Caroline was 54. They continued to divide their time between New York, Wyoming, and South Carolina with occasional visits to Palm Beach. A major event in their lives was the marriage of Coe's daughter, Natalie, to Italian Count Leonardo Vitetti. An art collector and bibliophile, Vitetti served as Italy's representative to the League of Nations and later to the United Nations. He and Natalie likely met when he was the secretary of the Italian Embassy in Washington. The Coes continued to avail themselves of the hunting and entertaining opportunities Cherokee provided but their primary passion seems to have been horticulture. Coe shipped plants by the carload from New York and purchased mature plants and trees from all over the south.

Coe continued to serve as the Chairman of Johnson & Higgins until 1943. After suffering a heart attack in 1946, he donated Planting Fields to the New York Education Department to be a



part of the Long Island Agricultural and Technical Institute after his death. His generosity at the time was described as “by all odds the most generous gift ever made to the state by an individual.” Today, the estate is operated by the state in conjunction with the Planting Fields Foundation as the Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park. Coe’s grandson, Michael D. Coe, serves as chairman of the foundation. Although they had spent increasing amounts of time at Cherokee over the years, in 1954, Caroline Coe transferred the plantation to the Coe Foundation which subsequently conveyed the property totaling 12,117 acres in two transactions to the Williams Furniture Corporation of Sumter, South Carolina.

With the sale by the Coes, Cherokee embarked upon a half-century adventure. The furniture company sold the house and 1,283 acres to R. I. Huffines, Jr., in 1956. He was a business executive who at various times was president of Textron America, Inc., and Burlington Mills and a director of several life insurance companies and the American Broadcasting Company. His connections with the latter are memorialized below the waterbuck mounted above the fireplace in the gun room. The trophy was bagged while he was on safari in Kenya with Bing Crosby filming an episode of American Sportsman in 1965. He is said to have entertained Joan Crawford at the plantation as well as Jackie and Aristotle Onassis although he promptly denied the rumor that they were interested in purchasing the plantation in 1969. Amid litigation relating to another of his business interests, Huffines sold his portion of Cherokee to Robert Beverley Evans later that year.

Evans was a Virginian educated at the University of Michigan. His father had run a successful plywood manufacturing business and the younger Evans pursued opportunities in the real estate, construction, and energy fields. He was quoted in 1961 as saying, “I enjoy taking sick companies and making them well.” He also enjoyed gliding, speed-boating, golf, and quail hunting. At one point he was so determined to break the boat speed record that he designed a racing boat powered by a jet engine. His opportunity to save a sick company came in 1966 when he purchased 220,000 shares of American Motors Corporation. As chairman of its board, he organized new management and continued as a director until 1980. It being the perfect place to hunt quail, Evans developed a great attachment to Cherokee and when time came in 1974 to name the smaller Jeep AMC was introducing, he is said to have chosen the name Cherokee in its honor. He sold Cherokee in late 1979, shortly before liquidating his holdings in AMC the following year.

Little is known about his successor, N. V. Nerlich, except that title to the plantation was held by a Netherlands Antilles corporation which sought protection of the South Carolina bankruptcy court in 1985. The property was sold to J. Randolph Updyke of Philadelphia by the trustee in 1987. A financier and investor, Updyke not only enjoyed the hunting available at Cherokee but expanded Coe’s equestrian facilities to accommodate his passion for Paso Fino horses. While the various owners brought with them various ideas for improving and taking full advantage of Cherokee - Evans took a stab at raising geels for sale to the Japanese and Nerlich had a go at a hog operation - everyone involved with the plantation has had a deep respect for Coe’s original creation and worked to maintain it rather than change it.





For almost a century, hunting has been and remains the primary attraction at Cherokee but in 1998, the plantation entered a new era with added enticements. Purchased by Harwood Corporation, a Bahamian entity controlled by Peter de Savary and a group of founding partners, it changed from a private plantation to a private club. An Englishman of many parts and even more ideas, de Savary had previously converted Andrew Carnegie's legendary Skibo Castle in Scotland into a premier resort. Over the years he has acquired, developed, sold, and in some instances lost resort properties in England, Scotland, Australia, the Caribbean, Egypt, and Newport. An avid sailor, he led Britain's America's Cup challenge in 1983 aboard *Victory 83*, reportedly the fastest 12 meter built before the advent of the winged keel. Nonetheless, the challenge fell short, losing to *Australia II* in the final heat.

At Cherokee, the founders set about adding the few things the Coes' retreat was missing. One of the first was a golf course. To fit eighteen holes into the landscape so carefully planned and executed by Coe and Dawson, they retained Donald Steel, renowned British golfer, writer, and course architect. Steel is perhaps most famous as the only golf architect in 100 years to work at the St. Andrews Links, the legendary Scottish course beloved as the home of golf. There, he created a master plan, redesigned two courses, and added a third. The new Strathtyrum course was completed in 1993 in former potato fields and was a good preparation for work at the unremittingly low and flat land at Cherokee.

From an aesthetic point of view, the best thing about the course at Cherokee is that if you don't know it's there, you don't know it's there. The design is completely unobtrusive. For the golfer,





the 7,100 yard course is known for its deep revetted bunkers, some 35 in all, and the undulating greens. Of course, the great glory of the course is its condition. With a full time pro, maintained to the highest standards, and given the summer off, it is a course to be savored from beginning to end. There are also local touches to be enjoyed such as the bamboo flag poles cut from the grove Coe planted to screen the relocated Blake house, cypress knobs for tee markers, and the occasional alligator who wishes to play through.

The founders also preserved or updated many of the features dating from the days of the Coes. The stables are still home to quarterhorses and saddlebreds and mules still graze in the pasture when they are not taking hunters into the field to pursue quail, dove, deer, turkey, or duck. Besides the stables and the 7,000 acres to explore, there are also indoor and outdoor riding arenas where one can hone one's equestrian skills but hunting remains the focus of activity on the plantation.

Other features of the plantation have been updated, expanded, or rebuilt. The Coes' carriage house on the circle has been converted into a spa and their teahouse now serves as the perfect spot



to begin a cruise on the Combahee, wet a line from the dock, have an oyster roast, or rock on the porch and watch the river flow by. The Blake house, now known as the Antebellum House, and several other buildings have been refurbished to accommodate guests when the main house overflows or when a degree of separation is desired.

Initially envisioned as a private club, perhaps having as many as 75 members, the founders were so taken with the beauty, privacy, and amenities of the place that they decided to limit membership. Today, there are twenty-one members at Cherokee who have a luxury W. R. Coe was never able to achieve. They have complete access to the remarkable place Coe created and the founders embellished but do not have the responsibilities that ordinarily come with ownership of such a property. This luxury even extends to the platted sites where members may build cottages. Taking their cues from old rice mills and the brick columns of St. James Church, two members have built private getaways overlooking the rice lands to the south and as of 2017, two more are underway.



Members may come and go from Cherokee at their pleasure, knowing that their jewel is being guarded and polished on a daily basis by more than sixty staff who will greet them as old friends when they arrive and do everything possible to make them feel at home while there. If one wishes to see friends, the busiest times at Cherokee are the week of Thanksgiving, between Christmas and New Year's, Easter week, and the week of the Masters. The winter holidays are prime time for hunting and Easter is the prime time for enjoying the landscape in bloom. As for the Masters, it is but a short hop from the airport at Walterboro to Augusta. One can play a round of golf at Cherokee in the morning, fly to Augusta for the afternoon, and be back in time for dinner at home.

Home is the operative word at Cherokee and it is a home beyond compare. It is the ultimate blending of nature, architecture, privacy, and friendship, set within the remarkable 350,000 acre ACE Basin conservation area of the Carolina Low Country. There is nothing else quite like it.





This report was commissioned by

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Plantation Services, Inc.
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CHEROKEE was researched, written, and designed by John David Myles, principal of Wild Holly Studio. An attorney, former circuit judge, and preservationist, he has written and lectured for the Filson Historical Society in his native Kentucky and is the author of an award-winning comprehensive study of the architecture of Shelby County, Kentucky. Myles has consulted on various restoration projects. He and his wife, Mary Helen, received awards from The Ida Lee Willis Memorial Foundation and Preservation Kentucky for their restoration of the 1839 John Dale house in Simpsonville, Kentucky, where they live with their Scottish terrier and stray cat.

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