

A History of I'on
Life Along the Creek



• *Life Along the Creek* •

I'On is located in an area of the South Carolina Lowcountry known as the Wando Neck. This narrow strip of mainland between the Wando River and the Atlantic Ocean is a border between sea and land that plays tricks with time. Restless tides change the landscape from hour to hour, yet the rhythm of the tide has been a fact of life in the Lowcountry since time began.



Natural beauty abounds at I'On.

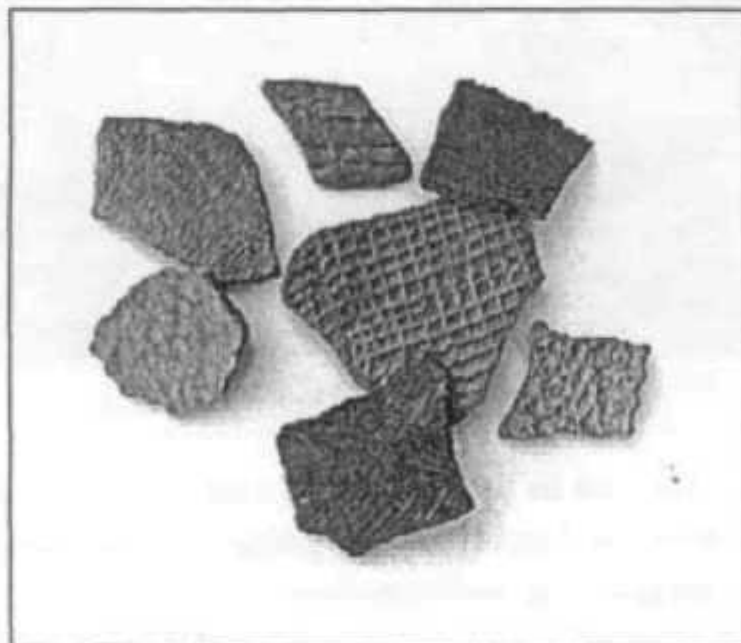
The Wando Neck, with its beautiful marsh vistas, majestic oak trees, snowy white egrets, and gently waving grasses and palmettos, has been irresistible to people for countless generations.

I'ON WAS FOUNDED APRIL 30TH, 1995

• *Our Prehistoric Neighbors* •

Humans have lived in Mount Pleasant for 12,000 years. The earliest Native Americans were nomadic hunters who followed large **game** such as buffalo and elk. This nomadic lifeway continued largely unchanged for at least 8,000 years.

Between 2000-1000 BC new technologies, including pottery making and the bow and arrow, appear in the Southeastern United States. Native Americans began living in larger and more permanent **settlements**. Agricultural practices were **adopted** and the use of pottery for cooking and storage became more widespread. This lifeway continued until the arrival of Europeans in the **1600s**. Prehistoric pottery from this broad period was found at TOn during the archaeological **study**. By the **middle** eighteenth century, very few Native Americans remained in the region; all had been displaced or annihilated by the ever-expanding English colonial settlement of the Carolinas.



Prehistoric sherds found at l'On

• *The New Colony* •

King Charles II of Great Britain granted Carolina to the Lords Proprietors in 1663. The next year, a group of Barbados planters hired William Hilton to explore this new land. Prompted by Hilton's account of tall pines and good soils, a small colony set out for Port Royal. Tales of hostile Indians convinced them to move farther north where they founded Charles Towne (**Charleston**) in 1670.

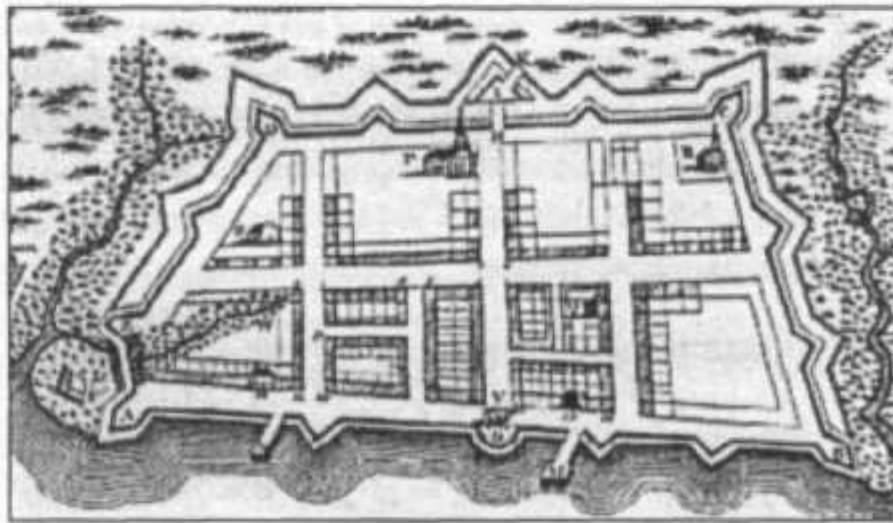
Many of the early settlements and plantations in the area focused on the Cooper and Wando Rivers. Unlike much of the Carolina Lowcountry, the soils of the Wando Neck were not conducive to the three big cash crops of the 18th and 19th centuries—rice, cotton, and indigo. Because of its lack of fertility, the area was sometimes referred to as the Hungry Neck. Instead, settlers of the Wando Neck region turned to the production of produce, livestock, timber products, and later, bricks.



1696 Map of the Carolina Colony

• *Hobcaw Plantation at I'On* •

The first European owner of POn was David Maybank II. Maybank came to Carolina from England in the early 1670s and maintained residences at his Hobcaw Creek Plantation, called Hobcaw Plantation and in Charleston. Hobcaw Plantation included the lands of the I'On neighborhood. A carpenter by trade, his most notable appointment was Commissioner for Fortifying Charleston; he was responsible for the construction of the defensive wall around Charleston.



Charleston in 1704

It is clear that Maybank built a residence at POn before 1713 as his will made in 1713 devised "unto Susannah [Wigfall Maybank] my beloved wife all my Plantation whereon I now dwell which I purchased of the Lords Proprietors." Susannah Maybank was living in the house at Hobcaw Plantation at the time of her death in 1716. The property then passed to her daughter, Susannah Maybank II, who had married Jacob Bond in 1715.

• *Jacob Bond at I'On* •

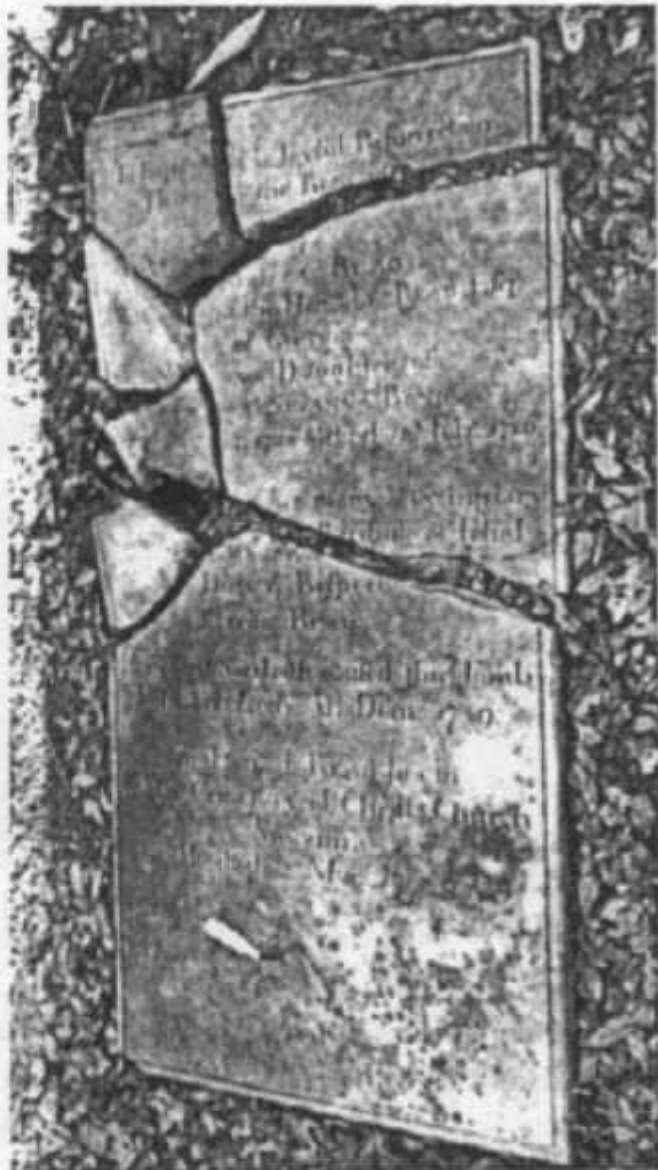
Jacob Bond was a mariner and was called "Captain" even after becoming a Lowcountry planter. Jacob and Susannah Bond lived on Hobcaw Plantation and had nine children. In addition to the 200 acres he inherited from his wife, Bond accumulated an additional 4,500 acres. He served on Royal Assemblies for the parishes of Christ Church, St. Helena, St. Thomas and St. Dennis, and St. Bartholomew at various times between 1725 and 1754. He served also as lax inquirer and collector for Christ Church Parish and justice of the peace for Berkeley County (1734).



Plat of Hobcaw Plantation

Jacob Bond lived at Hobcaw Plantation until his death in 1766. Susannah and Jacob Bond were buried in the family cemetery located on northwestern portion of I'On, as were their children Elizabeth, Sarah, and Hester. This family cemetery is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and has been preserved by the I'On Company as a monument to the long history of this land and the family.

Rebecca Bond, who inherited Hobcaw in 1746, married James **Read**. The couple returned from Georgia to **the** Bond family home at Hobcaw Plantation where she gave birth to their first child, Jacob, and second child, William. James Read died in Georgia 14 March 1778 and was buried in Christ Church cemetery in Savannah. Rebecca **Read** died in 1786 and was buried in **the** family cemetery at I'On. **She** willed Hobcaw Plantation "Where my father Jacob Bond Lived" to **her** first son Jacob Read. This statement combined with archaeological evidence suggests the original house at Hobcaw Plantation was abandoned



Grave **marker** of Rebecca Read

after Jacob **Bond's** death in 1766. The remains of the house were identified during archaeological investigations at I'On in 1997, and the site is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.



A portion of the foundation of David **Maybank's** house at Hobcaw

Jacob Read was **educated in** Savannah, and was **admitted to the South Carolina bar** on 23 March 1773. **Read** was an attorney for **the** state and was commissioned a **captain in the Charleston** Regiment of militia during the Revolutionary War. Read was arrested by **the** British in 1780 and exiled to St. Augustine, Florida after the fall of Charleston. He was included in a prisoner exchange in the summer of 1781 and returned to Charleston. Jacob Read was described by one **Charlestonian** as a "gentleman with his wonderful pomposity—but he is a sensible, as well as a very good-natured man—and although one may laugh, one cannot dislike him." Jacob Read died in July 1816 and was buried at the family cemetery at I'On.

William Read acquired I'On from his brother, Jacob. William Read, a Patriot, was **extremely** active during the American **Revolution**. He served as Deputy Surgeon General and was commissioned an officer in George Washington's Army. A plaque on the wall of St, **Michael's** Church in Charleston states that he served "under the immediate eye of General Washington; **he** had **the** satisfaction of attracting **the** personal regard, and winning the approbation of the Father of his country." After the war. William Read practiced medicine in Charleston. It is clear that Dr. Read did not live at I'On; **however**, he must have had some interest in the family property as he expanded the holding from 200 acres to more than 500 acres.

William Read married Sarah Harleston in 1787. They had three children; John Harleston, Elizabeth **Allston**, and Sarah Washington. Read was extremely active socially and politically. He owned Rice Hope Plantation on the Cooper **River**, extensive holdings in Georgetown, and lots in the now extinct town of Childsbury. When in Charleston, he lived at 39 Meeting **Street**, the former parsonage house of St. Michaels Church. William Read died at Rice Hope Plantation in **1845** at the **age** of 92. His body was brought lo his Meeting Street house and then carried in a military parade to St. Michaels Churchyard where he was buried with a gun salute. He left his estate to his children. John Harleston Read and Elizabeth A. Parker.



Artifacts from excavations at David **Maybank's** House

Dr. Read's son, John Harleston Read of Georgetown, acted as executor. J.H. Read, and his nephew Benjamin Huger Read, sold the property to Robert Quash Pinckney in 1846 for \$2,993.93. In the deed the Reads reserved, for the heirs of William Read, the family cemetery "of about a quarter of an acre." Pinckney, a well known surveyor, operated a farm on the land. While it is unclear whether Pinckney resided on the property, it soon became known as "the Cottage" Tract, perhaps indicating at least a temporary residence. In 1858, Pinckney sold the land that included I'On to Thomas L. Ogier for \$9,000.



Jacob Bond I'On

In 1854, Jacob Bond I'On erected a monument at the family cemetery. I'On was the great-great grandson of David Maybank II, the original owner of the tract. The monument pays tribute to the Maybank, Read, Bond, and I'On families. Three sides of the monument appear to have been engraved at that time; the fourth was left blank, possibly reserved for his own memorial after his death. A wrought iron fence was erected around the monument.

Jacob Bond l'On's accomplishments during his life (1779-1859) were many. He was a representative of the South Carolina Senate (1816-1832), Mayor of Sullivans Island (1823-1824), and Captain in the US Army with responsibilities for the defense of Charleston and Savannah during the War of 1812. l'On died in 1859, and the fourth side of the monument was indeed completed (during the 1930s) as a memorial to l'On who is buried in the cemetery. The monument was toppled over during an episode of vandalism in the 1960s or 1970s. In October 1996, Historic Resource Management Inc., was commissioned by the l'On Company to restore the monument as part of their plans to rededicate the family cemetery. The l'On cemetery was formally rededicated on 6 December 1996.



The l'on Monument

. I'On .

In 1995, Vince and Tom Graham first visited the property and decided it would be the perfect place for a traditional neighborhood. The neighborhood was named I'On after Jacob Bond I'On. It was said about I'On that he possessed "a dignity unequivocal, yet wholly free from assertion, beautifully blended with a courtesy so genuine, as to draw your heart unconsciously to him." Their goal was to create a neighborhood worthy of its namesake while paying tribute to the long history of this land.



Archaeological investigations at David Maybank's house

Further Reading

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Michael **Trinkley**, *An Archaeological Reconnaissance of Hobcaw Plantation, Charleston County, South Carolina*. **Chicora** Foundation, **Research** Series 10. Columbia. 1987.

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