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HISTORICAL LANDMARKS OF MY COUNTY
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Of the many landmarks of the Halifax country, one of which probably the least is known is the old Bulow Plantation, the remains of which are found near the old King's Road approximately eleven miles north of the city of Ormond. Owing to the extreme difficulty in gaining access to the place, it is but seldom frequented and consequently little known. But this does not signify its lack of historical value. On the contrary, it is quite the opposite. For it was not only the most extensive plantation ever to exist in the Halifax country, but it also was occupied as military headquarters in the war with the Indians by Major Benjamin A. Putnam.

The land was originally acquired from the Spanish government in 1812 by John Russel, a wealthy plantation owner in the Bahamas, in exchange for a schooner, the Barbarita. On the death of Russel, his grant passed to his heirs who in turn sold it to Charles W. Bulow in 1821. Immediately after taking possession of the grant, Bulow planted and improved it, constructed buildings, and employed a great number of slaves in the cultivation of sugar cane, cotton, starch and indigo plants. When Bulow died at St. Augustine in 1823, he left his life estate to his son, John J. Bulow. It was while John Bulow governed it that the Seminole War was fought and the plantation destroyed.

At the beginning of the war in the latter part of the year 1835, Major Putnam, of the State Militia, was ordered to proceed with the company to Tomoka and take post at Rosetta, also to command other troops stationed there. He remained stationed at this plantation of Marquis de Fonquieres until the night of December 28, 1835, when he moved his

forces to Bulowville, it being a more advantageous position. Bulowville remained the headquarters of the forces south of St. Augustine until the 23rd of January, 1836. An interesting account of the activities of the forces while stationed at Bulowville is given by Major Putnam in a report on the Seminole War in which he says: "Several expeditions were fitted out from this station, by land and water, against the Indians, particularly the one which resulted in the action at Dunlawton on the 18th of January, 1836; that after the battle, the dwelling house was converted into a hospital for the accommodation of the wounded. A short time after that, we had to quit Bulow as I had been wounded in action with the Indians at Dunlawton; that during the time at Bulowville, I took cotton bales belonging to the estate of Bulow to form a breastwork around the quarters; a fort also was built in front of the dwelling house for the protection of the place, the materials were all furnished from the estate; that the number of Indians in the neighborhood exceeded the command greatly; at the battle of Dunlawton, the enemy exceeded the command in number fourfold; that, on giving information of the movements of the enemy to Gen. Hernandez, he ordered the abandonment of the station at Bulowville and to occupy another at St. Josephs, about eleven miles distant; that it was abandoned accordingly on the night of the 23rd of January, 1836; that soon after the abandonment, the Indians took possession of the place and destroyed everything . . ." In a supplemental statement, Major Putnam reveals that he took possession of Bulowville because it was better situated than any other for conducting their military campaigns. He also states that he took possession of the place without consulting Mr. Bulow or obtaining his consent. Bulow objected to this move and manifested his op-

position by firing upon them with a four-pounder. In the retreat from Bulow, after abandoning it on the 23rd, Putnam's forces had to proceed via Smith Creek and experienced a narrow escape in eluding the Indians. They finally succeeded in reaching St. Josephs safely.

The Indians were at peace with the whites before the policy of moving them west of the Mississippi was adopted, and would not have harmed the plantation had not the militia occupied it previously. But because they had long been annoyed by expeditions which proceeded from there, such as the Dunlawton expedition in which they lost so many of their people, they were determined to destroy it as soon as their own safety was insured. A claim presented to the U. S. Government in after years for the damages perpetrated by the Indians amounted to \$83,475!

The remains of Bulowville, as left by the Indians on that January night in 1836, may be seen today. The sugar mill, of coquina and brick, skillfully cut and filled, is partially destroyed. The two large chimneys of the mill, often called the "Bulow Towers", still stand, covered by a dense growth of vines and moss. Near the mill is a large vat, probably used for indigo, and a few wells. An inscription on the north side of the mill bears the words: "Bulowville, January 26, 1831." For over a century the ruins have stood thus, protected by the dense growth surrounding them, the sole remains of the great plantation that played such an important part in the history of the Halifax country.