

## A F T E R W O R D

**David Hunter**—General Hunter, after overall command of Port Royal, took charge of the investigation involving the assassination of President Lincoln. He retired from the military a Brevet Major General and died in 1886.

**James Montgomery**—Colonel Montgomery, a villain in the eyes of many, especially Colonel Shaw, resigned his commission in 1864 and returned to Kansas, where he entered the state militia. He died on his farm in 1871.

**Thomas Higginson**—Colonel Higginson, commander of the First South Carolina Volunteers, handed control of the First to Major Trowbridge.

He was a man of many talents. A graduate of Harvard, Colonel Higginson's résumé also included minister, writer, reformer, even poet. Writing to Northern papers, he kept the Union abreast as to the successes of the black regiment. After the war, he turned his efforts to women's rights, and was also an advocate for homeopathy after taking powders from Laura Towne that positively impacted his health. He died at the age of eighty-seven in 1911.

**Edward Hooper**—Captain Hooper proved efficient under General Saxton, after taking the position made for Edward

Pierce, learning financial responsibility. He accepted a post at Harvard as a treasurer. He died in 1901 with pneumonia, although a fall from the second story of his residence probably contributed.

**Edward Philbrick**—An engineer, and a successful one, Mr. Philbrick spent the rest of his life working with sewer designs, making progress toward our modern toilets. He traveled extensively throughout the world and died without having children to carry on his name.

**William Channing Gannett**—The young man to enter the Port Royal Experiment left as a man of reform, eager for change. He became a Unitarian minister, writing hymns and preaching equality, not solely between people of different skin color but between the sexes as well. He married in 1887 and had two children. He died in 1923.

**Rufus Saxton**—Saxton first served as quartermaster for the Union army, and after commanding a battle at Harper's Ferry, took over Edward Pierce's position in charge of the freedmen. After the war he took a post at the Freedmen's Bureau, where he continued to fight for freedmen's rights to the land. Andrew Johnson removed him from the duty. Brigadier General Saxton died in 1908. For the battle at Harper's Ferry, Rufus Saxton was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, only one of three given to generals during the Civil War. He is one of three men noted in Laura Towne's diary whom she admired greatly.

**Reverend Mansfield French**—Reverend French attempted to run for public office in South Carolina after the war, but failed, after which he returned north. Reverend French, or Chaplain French, as many knew him, died in 1876 in New York.

**Kate Chase**—Her marriage to William Sprague in 1863 was the social event of the year. Even President Lincoln took time to join the reception. The U.S. Marine Band played a march written just for Kate.

Sprague's unwise investments led him to find help in the bottle, and he became an alcoholic. He accused Kate of affairs, and after four children, they divorced. She returned to help her father's career, and after he died, and her son committed suicide, she lived alone. She died a pauper in 1899. She was, according to the *Enquirer*, as close to being the Queen of America as anyone ever could. She was buried near her father.

**Edward Lillie Pierce**—The Port Royal Experiment changed Pierce. His energies, once used to help the national government, turned to helping his city government. He married Elizabeth H. Kingsbury, and they had six children. She died in 1880. After donating a library at St. Helena Island to Laura Towne and her Penn School, he married an Englishwoman, his second wife, who gave birth twice. He enjoyed trips to Europe, reading, and taking important positions in Milton, Massachusetts, such as supervisor of the local library.

While he made many speeches and continued to write, he was best known as a close friend to the influential men and women of the day.

Pierce has been forgotten by history for several reasons. First, he didn't press his notoriety to propel him into the more visible positions in government. He chose useful jobs, such as defending the freedmen, and later, the Chinese. Second, he vocally decried the popular Andrew Johnson, President Lincoln's successor. Until the last several decades, Johnson was a popular president, exacting revenge on the South for the war. Pierce's views were not widespread. Finally, the biography of Charles

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Sumner, to which Pierce devoted his efforts, is secondary in importance to the more popular characters of the Civil War.

In modern media, he is portrayed incorrectly, usually as a correspondent to Northern newspapers. Instead, philanthropy was his passion.

Edward Pierce died in 1897 while visiting Paris, from all accounts a happy man with the well-deserved love of his children and respect from a healing nation.

**Laura Matilda Towne**—Miss Towne spent more time finding excuses during summer breaks to stay in South Carolina than visiting her family in Philadelphia. Her administration skills kept the Penn School running year after year, despite the North's lagging support. Private funds from such people as Edward Pierce and Lucretia Mott kept the school from closing. The men and women of the island were family to her, and she loved them as her own, taking in children and feeding the poor. She continued in this work until her death in 1901. Hundreds of men and women who loved her sang while surrounding the wagon that carried her body.

Laura Towne's friend, Ellen Murray, died in 1908. Both are buried side by side next to the Brick Church.

Will Towne, her brother, stayed for years, contributing his skills. He remodeled the Frogmore's main plantation house.

Today, the Penn School is the Penn Center. It still teaches, in a variety of ways, about culture, human rights, and other vital information about the islands of the low country.

Laura Towne's bell still resides inside the museum.

**Tad, Peg, Collin, Mammy, Samuel, Bo, Private Gates**—All are fictional characters, but entirely feasible case studies. There are examples in Laura Towne's diary and Pierce's work that describe the former masters' atrocities and kindness, exceptional and

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dull children, mother and child relations loving or brutal, and soldierly interactions with the freedmen, both good and bad.

**Frogmore**—The Frogmore plantation complex is nestled against Station Creek, a working haven to all that is South Carolina. The Frogmore is privately owned, as it was by Miss Towne and Miss Murray. Over the course of their lives, they made improvements on the land and house—improvements that still stand today.