

Did the Wadmalaw tea farm originally get their tea from the Caw Caw park site?

It is our understanding that the Lipton's experimental tea farm did take samples from this site. Lipton's was the precursor to the commercial tea operation on Wadmalaw today.

- Did Native Americans cultivate tea plants or some derivative?

No. *Camelia sinensis* is an Asian plant that was introduced to the America's by Europeans. Indigenous people did make infusions from a number of plants, including Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*), which coincidentally is the only known native North American plant to contain caffeine, like *C. sinensis*.

- Did African Americans cultivate tea plants?

Yes, in Summerville and at Caw Caw.

- Have any archaeological digs been done in Caw Caw?

Yes there have been about a half dozen digs that uncovered archeological sites dating from the late Archaic period (2,000 b.c.e.) to the early 20th century.

- Inland rice cultivation versus tidal rice cultivation—did they compete with each other commercially?

They co-existed, but tidal rice was much more lucrative because the yield per acre was so much greater.

- In the shift from cattle to rice, what happened to the cattle?

They remained, just not as wide spread, nor nearly as lucrative. In fact, the last agricultural operation (1970s) out at Caw Caw included cattle grazing in the former rice fields, according to local residents.

- Why do you think the Elliot and Rose slaves did not join the Stono Rebellion?

We don't know that they didn't, just that some chose not to and engaged in resisting the people who were. As I stated it all a matter of calculated risk taking.

- Who is currently working on this research? How is it funded?

Many people continue to research this, and it is funded in a variety of ways depending on the researcher. Some are descendants, some are public historian like me, and others are academic historians, and it is sometimes self-funded, institutionally funded, and grant funded.

- Does Caw Caw Interpretive Center have any African American employees? If so, in what capacities?

Yes and no. Our interpretation team is headquartered out of Caw Caw (I am one of the team's supervisors) and on the interpretation team there are a number of African American employees, full and part time (27% total, 17% full-time, 33% part-time). This team works in parks all over Charleston County. There are no African American employees assigned exclusively to Caw Caw that work on its visitor services or grounds/maintenance teams.

- Is there a published history on this research; is it share with area schools?

Yes, start off with Peter Wood's *Black Majority*. Much of the new research related to the route is still being researched and should be published soon. The Stono Rebellion has been included in SC State Educational standards in the past. I am not sure that it remains in the current standards as these are very vague in their content requirements. Whether it is taught is largely up to the individual teacher.

- Please explain July's loyalty to the English government.

I am not sure that I can. Other than to say that we are all interested in our own self-preservation and July apparently weighed the positives and negatives and decided that the odds for his own personal well-being was associated with defending those that enslaved him and later possibly working for the British in a military expedition against the Spanish and self-emancipated slaves from the English colonies.

We often make choices that when viewed by others appear to be counter-intuitive and in the long run actually work against the interests of our own communities and family, but may benefit ourselves at the present.

"Free" people of color, in the North and South, during the colonial, antebellum, and Jim Crow eras did not have what most of us would call or recognize as freedom and were subjected legal and social denial of most personal liberties and justice. This is not a "done" story. The experiences of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery very clearly illustrated this fact.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to speak to the Center for Creative Retirement.

Shawn