

January 1960

Fashionable Bulow Plantation in ruins

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Dunn, Hampton, "Fashionable Bulow Plantation in ruins" (1960). *Hampton Dunn Phototouring Florida Collection*. 234.

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Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



FASHIONABLE BULOW PLANTATION IN RUINS

By HAMPTON DUNN

ORMOND BEACH --- It's sad to think about it, that the once lovely and fashionable old Bulow plantation is now just a bunch of ruins. Mostly all that is left are the extensive coquina ruins of the great sugar mill, several well preserved wells, a unique spring house and the crumbling foundations of the mansion. A state park on the site seeks to preserve the memory of the once exciting place.

The story of "Bulowville" starts in 1812 when a Bahamian farmer, James Russell, came to this country aboard a schooner, *Preserverance*, which he traded to the Spanish government for some 6, 000 acres of good land in this area. He began the development of a plantation which he called "Good Retreat." But his career was short-lived. Russell died in 1815.

The Russell heirs sold the property to a wealthy planter from South Carolina, Maj. Charles Wilhelm Bulow of Charleston. He moved in some 300 slaves and soon, developed the plantation into a showplace. But his time at Bulowville was short-lived. He died at the age of 44 only three years after moving here.

His young son, John Joachim Bulow, took over the family fortunes. It is said he was a handsome, high-spirited, good drinking and hunting companion. The great naturalist, John James Audubon visited Bulowville and wrote of his host who gave his party "the most hospitable and welcome tratment that could possibly be afforded ."

The gaiety that was Bulowville came to an abrupt end in December, 1835 with the outbreak of the Seminole Indian War and the quartering of militia at the plantation in spite of Bulow's opposition. The Indians later put the property to the torch.

