

Wm Henry Brisbane

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Rehearsal For Reconstruction
Willie Rose
Bells - Merrill 1964

(1)

"abandoned his state in the 1830's on a point of freedom of speech, moving to Ohio." converted to anti-slavery, he returned home, bought back his slaves and took them north to free them.
Jan. 1863 Dr. Wm H. Brisbane "a native sea island planter turned abolitionist"

highlighted all-day celebration at Camp Saxton for several thousand former slaves by reading the President's Proclamation

3 tax commissioners with authority to sell confiscated plantations arrived Beaufort Oct. 1862, W.H.B. was chairman-

[minutes of US Direct Tax Commission for S.C., Treasury Dept. Archives]

Report of Direct Tax Commissioners 1 Jan. 1863, Senate Executive Documents, No. 26, 37th Congress, 3rd Session, Serial 1149.

THE NEW SOUTH 31 Jan. 1863 for list of estates.

Sales of estates were announced for 11 Feb. 1863 by the tax commission but on 7 Feb. Gen. Hunter cancelled same. Pres. Lincoln then appointed 3 tax commissions (Brisbane, Judge Abraham D. Smith, Dr. Wm E. Wording) with gens. Saxton + Hunter a commission "to determine size + location of lands to be reserved for charitable, educational or police purposes".

9 Mar. 63: 76,775 A offered but commissioners reserved 60,296 A.
16,479 A sold @ \$1-
Philbrick bought 8000 A for \$7000-
11 plantations 1/3 St. Helena's
+ 2 leased from U.S.

Feb. In 1864 Brisbane drew up a plan for 2 "cities of Commerce", one at Land's End on St. H. and one at present Port Royal, right to with town greens and colleges.

He proposed a resurvey of entire region at ruthless right angles, disregarding ancient plantation markers, winding creeks. The survey system used in the West (Ohio, etc.) was simply impractical, also, a number of plantations as units had passed into private hands in 1863 sale.

Some radicals wanted to give the negroes all the fine plantation lands on Port Royal, H.H. and St. Helena's Is. but Brisbane determined to regulate the disposition of said lands by allotting 20,000 A @ \$1.25 to negro heads of families. The Boston Commonwealth attacked him saying that though a man of good intentions, he could not rid himself of "the prejudices of his first forty years" as a Southerner and was not ready to "recognize the negro as a man. He doesn't talk of rights, he talks of benefits." (18 Mar. 1864)