

After the Civil War



*Top Left: Kate Gleason at the ruins; Top Right: Dataw residents;
Bottom: Views of farming at Dataw.*

Above: Planting tomatoes at Dataw.

Many former slaves remained on the island as free men and women. The northern portion of Dataw was sold to William Irwin of New York. He divided the land into small parcels and entered into crop-lien agreements with at least eight African American farmers. In those hard times, none of these families was able to fulfill its liens. Some families likely stayed on, paying rent and working for themselves.

The tenant period came to an end in 1928 when Kate Gleason, a New York entrepreneur, banker, and engineer, purchased the island from Samuel Stoney. Kate Gleason learned about Beaufort and St. Helena from her good friend and traveling companion Elizabeth Sanders. When Kate died in 1933, she left Dataw to her dear friend. Elizabeth married Richard Rowland in 1936, and the island stayed in the Rowland family until it was sold to ALCOA in 1983.

*Left: Boating at Dataw in the 1930s; Center: Libby and Richard Rowland's wedding; Right: Juliana Polite at Dataw in the 1930s.
Images courtesy of Larry Rowland.*

