

Today in Columbus History:

On February 21, 1878, the *Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun* ran an ad for "Bonny Doon Berkshires." William Bruce was selling the pigs at the Bonny Doon Stock Farm, not far from town. The *Times* and *Enquirer-Sun* both ran lengthy articles singing the praises of the farm. Bruce started the farm around 1875 and imported the pigs from England. He was trying to reduce the amount of bacon brought from the "West" by improving the yield obtained from the local livestock. Berkshires were the first pigs to have their pedigrees recorded and Bruce mentions the bloodlines in his ad. The farm also specialized in sweet potatoes, pea-hay and other animal fodder.

Numerous references to the farm give its location as a mile and a half northeast of Columbus on Talbotton Road. Ads for the property say that 15th Avenue passes through it. This puts Bonny Doon near the present-day Talbotton Road Park and Ride. The name of the farm comes from the song "The Banks O' Doon" by the Scots poet Robert Burns. Two of the three versions of the song he wrote mention the banks "o'bonnie doon" in the first line.

William Bruce and his brother Henry were born in Aberdeen, Scotland. According to the 1878 Sholes' directory of the city of Columbus, both brothers worked as bookkeepers, Henry at Eagle and Phenix Manufacturing and William at Eagle and Phenix Savings Bank. Henry Bruce married Henrietta Patten and raised his family in Columbus. William Bruce married Mary Louisa Jones, daughter of Col. Jack Jones and Mary Louisa Leonard in 1875. She was the granddaughter of Seaborn Jones and Vande Van Leonard.

The main house on the Bonny Doon farm, a mansion built by Mary Louisa's father, caught fire, and burned to the ground on June 21, 1878. This was the first of several misfortunes to befall the family. William discovered the fire in the cellar at 3 o'clock in morning. The newspaper reported that an incendiary was to blame. Bruce vowed to rebuild but put the farm up for sale within a month. It must not have sold as it was up for auction by September 1878. Thomas J. Granberry eventually bought the property. The Bonny Doon farm was subdivided and sold it off in lots in 1890.

The Bruce family left Columbus for North Carolina near the end of 1879 with their daughter Mary Louise. Their other daughter, Marion Leonard, possibly Mary's twin, remained behind in Linwood Cemetery, having died in January of 1879. Another daughter, Bessie, born in North Carolina during late 1879 or early 1880 drowned in 1881. The family moved to Wellsville, New York by late 1886 and then to Norfolk, Virginia by 1899.

Another child, Caroline Benning Bruce died in Norfolk and was sent back to New York for burial in 1899. The same year, their beautiful new house in Norfolk burned to the ground. The mother, Mary Louisa died unexpectedly while in the hospital in 1903. The family shipped her remains to Columbus for burial in the Garrard-Leonard lot in Linwood Cemetery. She was survived by her other seven children.

William Bruce relocated to British Columbia, Canada and remarried to Christine Lumsden in 1904. The couple had at least two more children in Canada. William died in 1926 at Victoria, British Columbia.

Compiled by Daniel A. Bellware, Muscogee Genealogical Society

Clipping from Georgia Historic Newspapers (GALILEO).

Our weekly snippets of Columbus history are usually based on a few days-worth of searching through the most popular sources for Muscogee County history. Meant to inspire readers to explore more about Columbus history, they are not exhaustive dissertations on the topic and may contain mistakes. If you have corrections or additional information, feel free to share them with the group.

BONNY DOON BERKSHIRES



FOR SALE.

CHOICE BERKSHIRE PIGS, from first-class IMPORTED SOWS, bred to the following noted Prize Winners: "Robinhood," "Smithereen," "Royal Smithereen," "Royal Tombs," and "Sir Dorchester Cardiff."

Safe transportation and satisfaction guaranteed. Send for catalogue.

WILLIAM BRUCE,
BONNY DOON STOCK FARM,
Columbus, Georgia.

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From the *Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun*, February 21, 1878,
<https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/>.

**SWEET POTATOES
FOR SALE.**

ST. DOMINGO YAMS—A NEW POTATOE. Finest stock Potatoe grown, and excellent also for table use. Three hundred bushels to the acre on rich land. Two hundred bushels have been gathered from one acre at Bonny Doon on medium upland.

Apply at Bonny Doon Stock Farm, or to
WILLIAM BRUCE,
Eagle & Phenix Office, Columbus, Ga.
nov10 dtaw&wlm*

From the *Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun*, November 15, 1877,
<https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/>.



Mary Louisa Jones Bruce, wife of William Wallace Bruce and granddaughter of Vande Van Leonard and Seaborn Jones, from <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/118155949/mary-louisa-bruce>

FOR SALE.

BONNY DOON

STOCK FARM!

ONE and a half miles from Columbus, Ga., containing 50 acres, more or less, in excellent cultivation. Would make a superior Dairy Farm; the out-buildings being all new and peculiarly adapted for the purposes of a Dairy Farm, Columbus furnishing an excellent market for its products.

It preferred, the growing crops will be sold with the place, giving the purchaser the advantage of a year's start.

For particulars apply to
WILLIAM BRUCE,
Eagle & Phenix Office,
Columbus, Ga.

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From the *Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun*, July 18, 1878, <https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/>.

BY JACOB HECHT.

— 0 —

Bonny Doon Stock Farm AT AUCTION!

— 0 —

ON Tuesday, the 15th day of October next, at 11 o'clock, I will sell

ON THE PREMISES.

to the highest bidder, the splendidly arranged

Stock & Dairy Farm

— known as —

“Bonny Doon,”

about 1½ miles northeast of the city, containing 13 acres of land, more or less, in a high state of cultivation.

The elegant residence having been destroyed by fire, there are still on the place two nicely framed houses with 8 rooms and fireplaces and other necessary outhouses.

I will also sell at the same time all the crops of this year's raising and part of last year's, on the farm, consisting of

Oats in the Sheaf, Pen-Hay; Sweet Potatoes; Fodder;

Corn in the sheaf, and SUGAR CANE, together with Mr. Bruce's fine and carefully bred stock of PURE BUCKSHIRE HOGS; 150,000 Brick; 2 fine Mules; One Cow and calf; 1 handsome Buggy and Harness; 1 Farm Wagon and Harness; 1 fine Straw Cutter; Saddle and bridle; 1 Large Feed Bin; Farm Implements of various kinds; a lot of Hog troughs, strong and well made; 100 feet, 1½ inch Rubber Hose with couplings and nozzles; 2 substantial Water troughs, and other useful articles used on a farm.

There is on what was known as the “Dexter Place,” (recently added to the farm) a slaughter pen with the usual facilities for butchering purposes. This place, situated so near the city, is admirably adapted for a

Market and Dairy Farm,

therefore it will be to the interest of those wishing to engage in that line of business to attend the sale.

Terms one half cash, balance in one and two years, for the farm, secured by mortgage on the place. Cash for the other property.

C. S. HARRISON,

Auctioneer.

COLUMBUS, GA., Sept. 22d, 1878.

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From the *Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun*, Sept. 29, 1878,

<https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/>.

Fifteenth avenue runs through the center of the "Bonny Doon" survey. On this avenue some of the handsomest dwellings on East Highlands are located.

Toombs Crawford.

The G. M. and G. railroad and the dummy line have a station on the "Bonny Doon" addition East Highlands. The newly projected belt line will run through this property. Lots purchased now will pay 100 per cent in the next few months.

Toombs Crawford,
Real Estate Agent.

Pretty lots, level lots, cheap lots, and located where money makes itself. Nature has decreed it, experience has proven it, your judgment confirms it, that the purchase of lots on the "Bonny Doon" addition to the East Highlands will make 100 per cent in the next few months.

Toombs Crawford.

Wage workers, mechanics and book-keepers, this is the offer you should take advantage of. One hundred lots, situated in the "Bonny Doon" survey, East Highlands, will be sold on installments of fifty cents and \$1.00 per week, without interest.

Toombs Crawford,
Real Estate Agent.

Ads from *Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun*, June 21, 1890, <https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/>.

Bruce Henry, bkkpr E. & P. M. Co., r Broad, se cor Wash-
ington
Bruce William, bkkpr E. & P. Savings Bank, r Bonny Doon
Farm

Bruce brothers in Sholes' Directory of the City of Columbus, 1878, <https://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/chat/ccd/pdfs/dir-columbus1878.pdf>