



The Heritage Observer

News from
The Heritage Library

Bringing the Past to Life

Vol. 13, No. 4

December 2021

In 2019, the anchor organization, Heritage Library, Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park, Gullah Museum, Hilton Head Land Trust, and Coastal Discovery Museum, launched Historic Holidays on Hilton Head Island to bring together multi-generational



By Jenn McEween,
Director of Cultural Affairs
Town of Hilton Head Island

discoveries tracking how local traditions grew on this melting-pot Island. With these organizations being supported by countless numbers of storytellers, artisans, chefs, and long-standing residents with incredible oral histories to share,

Historic Holidays allows us a glimpse of holiday celebrations for both Revolutionary and Civil War soldiers, how the first freedman's village celebrated in Mitchelville, and many more Island holiday traditions before the bridge and after.

In 2020, also known as the year of the pivot and Covid-19, these innovative cultural organizations on Hilton Head were determined not to give up on the fantastically festive Historic Holidays collaboration that they launched in 2019. I was honored to be the host for a video alternative that was created in a safe and distanced way to bring these stories to life even though we couldn't gather together.

I am elated to announce that we will be returning in person this December for the celebration of Sea Island Traditions in the grandest fashion



from December 2 through December 11. Historic Holidays begins December 2nd with

HISTORIC HOLIDAYS ON HILTON HEAD ISLAND

Heritage Library and its partners taping a television program with WHHI that will air throughout the month of December. Various guests will talk about lowcountry holiday traditions and how you can use those traditions to bring a lowcountry style to your celebrations. The program will include a cooking demonstration by Andrew Carmines, lowcountry décor by Debi Lynes and Flowers by Sue, Gullah traditions by



Louise Cohen and more. The taping will take place at Hudson's Seafood House on the Docks from 4-6 pm.

On December 4-6, Historic Michelville Freedom Park will present its Drive-Thru Holiday Light Display, everyone's favorite new tradition. Visitors will drive through the Park, delighted by lights and music, enjoying holiday scenes from around the world.

Check the Heritage Library's website for events that focus on the holiday season during the Colonial and Civil War eras. Living history characters will tell the stories of holidays past while providing you a history of Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery and Fort Mitchel. Their website will also provide you with a full calendar of events.



Saturday, December 11th is Living History Day. New this year is a walking tour that will begin and end at Mitchelville Freedom Park starting at 9:30 am. This 2.5-mile walk will visit Queen Chapel AME Church, Fort Howell, St. James Baptist Church, and Cherry Hill School. Visitors will learn about holiday traditions in one of Hilton Head Island's historic neighborhoods. Free for everyone to enjoy.

December 11th is also the open market at Coastal Discovery Museum with all community partners in attendance from 1-4 pm. Visitors will step back in time with Hilton Head's rich cultural history on full display as they enjoy each site at their leisure. The sites will show the different eras of Hilton Head history. You will hear stories of our past from docents and living history characters, learning about the holidays on Hilton Head from the colonial period through reconstruction and the many Gullah traditions that make our Island such a special place. The beautiful Camilla Garden will be in bloom.

Most events are free, a true gift to our community from these incredible partners. Can't wait to see you there!



Officers:

Executive Director: Barbara Catenaci
 President: Ezra Callahan
 Vice President: Sarah Takacs
 Secretary: Luana Graves Sellars
 Treasurer: Peter Cooper

Board of Directors:**Class of 2020**

Peter Cooper
 Herbert Ford
 James Y. Robinson
 Luana Graves Sellars
 Iva Welton

Class of 2021

Greg DeLoach
 Dodi Eschenbach
 Nathaniel Jones
 Sarah Takacs

Class of 2022

Ezra Callahan
 Claudia Kennedy
 James MacLeod
 Barrett Riordan
 Richard Thomas

Board of Advisors:

Bill Altstaetter
 Dr. Emory Campbell
 Ed Dowaschinski
 Norman Harberger
 Natalie Hefter
 Dr. Brent Morris
 Gail Quick
 Dr. Larry Rowland

**The Heritage Observer**

is published by Heritage Library

#2 Corpus Christi

The Professional Building, Suite 100
 Hilton Head Island SC 29928
 843-686-6560

www.HeritageLib.org

Editor:

Elizabeth R. Hanson
erhanson@hargray.com



From the Executive Director



By Barbara Catenaci
Executive Director

'Tis the season for celebrating and there is not a better place to celebrate than Hilton Head Island. Our island is rich in history and holiday traditions and we hope you are ready to see all that we have to offer during Historic Holidays on Hilton Head Island. This event runs from December 2-11. You can read about it on page 1 and all the details can be found on our website www.heritagelib.org/historicholidays.

We hope you were among the lucky that got to experience this year's Ghosts & Myths event at Zion Cemetery. All six performances sold out so many of you got to meet the ghosts of Captain Jack Stoney, Lydia Davant, Mary Kirk and more – even a special witch to lead you through the cemetery for this Halloween event. Heartfelt thanks go out to all the volunteers that made this event possible – a grueling task that they generously give their time and talent to each year. Special thanks to WAHHI – we can always count on you to help meet our volunteer needs with expertise and enthusiasm. WAHHI's Difference Makers were out each night to help with registering guests to the event and filling in wherever needed and we are appreciative. Watch for this event next year, we expect it to sell out again especially since our volunteers are developing new ghost stories that are unique and spooky to mix with some of the old and make this event more fun year after year. And I don't dare forget to thank Darling Eye Center for helping us with parking overflow – you are a good friend and we appreciate your help.

Our historic sites are going through some important changes and updates. We are in the process of improving

parking at Zion Cemetery and Fort Mitchel. These changes should make the sites more accessible, safe and welcoming. Some work has been completed on the Kirk monument within the Kirk plot at Zion including replacing the missing obelisk on that monument. We will do more work on the Kirk plot when we are able to fund-raise for that purpose. The Library is researching materials and design for the installation of a permanent door on the Baynard Mausoleum. Once a permanent door is in place, the work on the mausoleum will be complete. New signage will also be added at each of the sites. We look forward to a new tour season in 2022. Plan to visit our sites and enjoy the work that is being done.

Zion Cemetery had a special visit from Girl Scout Troop 222 on September 25th. The troop and parents came out to provide some tree trimming and landscape clean-up at the site as part of their community service. This great group spent three hours at the site with pruning shears, rakes and brooms and what a difference they made! Thank you Troop 222 – you are a special group and we appreciate your hard work and dedication.

Working within the confines of Covid-19 for almost two years has been a challenge for everyone. Every aspect of our lives was touched by this pandemic and we are all hopeful that 2022 is the year that we can put all that is Covid-19 behind us. Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported us with their time, talent, expertise, kind words and deeds, and donations. The Library is very lucky to have a team of volunteers, members, donors, and Board directors – y'all are truly wonderful and you are what makes The Heritage Library Foundation a very special organization. Thank you!

Coastal Defense Study Group Visit

The Coastal Defense Study Group (CDSG) is a non-profit corporation formed to promote the study of coastal defenses and fortifications, primarily those of the United States; their history, architecture, technology, and strategic and tactical employment. Primary goals are the promotion of



Barry Riordan leads a tour at Fort Mitchel

educational study, technical research, and accurate documentation of seacoast defense history as well as the preservation of seacoast defense sites, equipment, and records. This year CDSG devoted its Annual Conference to the defenses of Charleston, Savannah, and the Lowcountry. The first three days of the conference were devoted to the many fortifications in the Charleston area. On the fourth day, October 15, the group moved to Hilton Head Island.

Under the auspices of the Heritage Library, the CDSG group, 54 strong, started their visit with a guided tour

of Fort Mitchel. The group convened at the Hilton Head Rowing and Sailing Club site on Squire Pope Road. Half of the group was served lunch while I led the other half to Fort Mitchel where I gave a 45- minute talk as we walked through the Fort. Then the first half returned to the Rowing and Sailing Club to have lunch and I took the other half to tour Fort Mitchel.

It was a beautiful October day at Fort Mitchel and the CDSG group was impressed with the natural beauty of the site overlooking Skull Creek. They were well informed about the Civil War strategy that led to the construction of the Fort and asked many questions about the Union occupation of Hilton Head, the armament of the Fort, the construction going on next door, and the frequency of alligator sightings.

After the tour and lunch, the group was taken to Port Royal Plantation to



By Barry Riordan
Board Member

continue their tour of Hilton Head Island. There they visited the site of Fort Walker and the Steam Gun for a tour conducted by Rich Thomas and Ted Panayotoff, a member of Friends of Fort Fremont. Ted came in costume and provided details about the Steam Gun which he has heavily researched.

After their Hilton Head visit, the group continued their CDSG Conference for another two days in Savannah and the sea island fortifications further south.



Ted Panayotoff provides details of the Steam Gun



CDSG member takes a photograph of the Steam Gun

The CDSG is an important historical study organization with members across the United States and other countries. The Heritage Library is proud to have established a relationship with this group and hopes to have them and related organizations visit in the future.

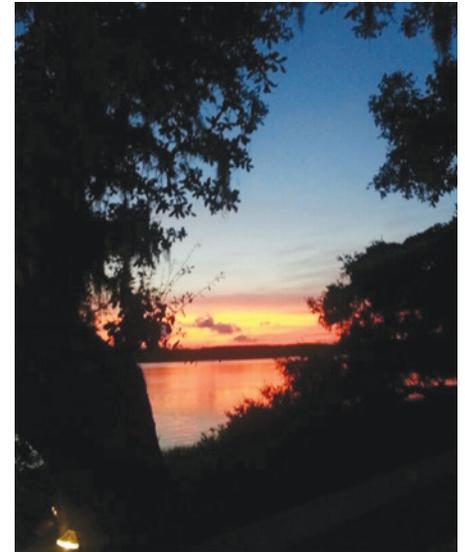
The Library would like to give special thanks to volunteers Kathy Smith, Larry Stine, Ted Panayotoff, and Will Dopp, as well as the Security personnel at Hilton Head and Port Royal Plantations. Their contributions helped to make this event a great success.



The Girl Scouts who cleaned up the Zion Cemetery landscape on September 25.

Sharing the Heritage

The Old Fort Pub



It is hard to imagine the famous Old Fort Pub restaurant sitting near farmland and tomato fields on the north end of Hilton Head Island. When it was first imagined by Charles Fraser, creator of Sea Pines Plantation, that is exactly where he planned to put it. How was he, in 1973, going to get potential buyers of Hilton Head Plantation property and Sea Pines residents to drive out to the north end of the Island where native islanders worked small farms? The land was so different from the palmetto-studded terrain of the southern end of the Island. It resembled, with gentle farm sounds, sprawling roadside bushes.

But Charles knew exactly what he wanted to do – create a restaurant. He asked Ralph “Bal” Ballantine, who had a remarkable career as a nationally known Chicago illustrator, to come to his aid. Bal’s most memorable character was the “The Jolly Green Giant.” He was the model for the Giant, creating a smiling, friendly character that is still around. He and his wife, Sis, moved to the Island in 1967. They built a home in Sea Pines on a lot they purchased from young Charles Fraser – starting a long, creative relationship. Bal designed the Cape-Cod style South Beach Marina, CQ’s restaurant,



By Iva Roberts Welton
Board Member

and his own design studio as well as Old Fort Pub. Active in the early community of the Arts, Bal attended the famous “Artist Roundtable” at the Red Piano Gallery and designed sets for the original Island Playhouse theater. Sis was a much appreciated comedic talent in Playhouse productions. Bal’s bust of

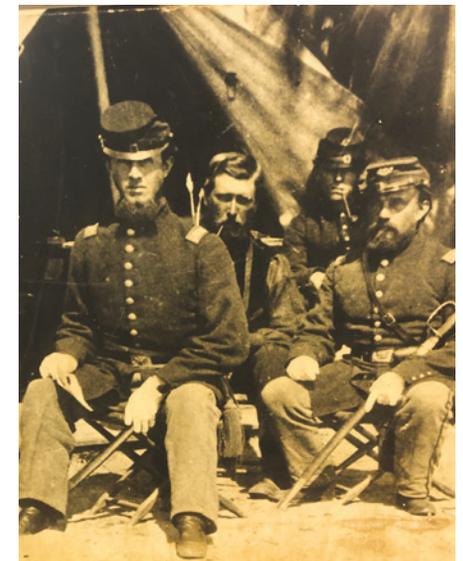
Charles Fraser, beneath the Liberty Oak, is passed by thousands of visitors every year in Harbour Town. Bal’s son, Todd, well known naturalist, worked beside his Dad sometimes and gave us *Tidelands Treasures* – I still have a copy. He gave lectures and talks to generations of islanders helping them to appreciate our surrounding nature.

Charles told Bal to have a look at the property and see what he could come up with but not to tell anyone about it. He said he wanted it to look as if it belonged there. And that Bal did! He designed a building nestled in the landscape surrounded by live oaks. I always loved the gnarled one. There was a porch across the back where customers could enjoy eating outside and watching spectacular sunsets over Skull Creek. Islander Tim Doughtie designed a miniature museum placing a collection of Fraser’s photos of that period, photos of the Union troops, and

other memorabilia around the restaurant. That display delighted visitors for all the years Old Fort Pub was open and I always viewed them whenever I was in the restaurant.

From the moment the Old Fort Pub opened on April 3, 1973, quintessential Charles Fraser with historical overtones blended with nature and white table cloths, it gave guests a reason to drive way out to the “boondocks” and view his company’s new venture called Hilton Head Plantation.

The first manager, Andy Twisdale, crossed the old swing bridge to the Island



in 1971 from his small hometown, Enfield, the “Peanut Capital of North Carolina.”

After managing and bartending at Old Fort Pub, he moved on to become the long-time manager of Hudson’s and become a successful Real Estate Associate which he is today. Andy told me, “We had one requirement that no other restaurant on the Island had. The staff had to know how to drive tractors. The parking lot sometimes turned into a bog and patrons had to be towed out to the road.”

On Opening day, Andy’s mother was in the kitchen with Miss Annie Mae cooking okra gumbo and cornbread (without sugar, I might add). “We always tried to have authentic lowcountry food on the menu.” The authenticity came from Miss Annie Mae, who dated her ancestry on Hilton Head to the War Between the States. She had many preferences. One was never to swear in the kitchen. Old Fort Pub held Friday night lowcountry oyster roasts – hosed-down burlap bags on a sheet of metal with oak embers below. Guests were amazed, loved it, and devoured the oysters.

Old Fort Pub was purchased by the Lowrey Group in 1983. After a few months refurbishing, they opened on the

Fourth of July. Bonnie and Pierce Lowrey enlarged the deck, put in a garden, and spruced up the area with beautiful views. It was Bonnie’s “baby.” With an upscale ambience paired with a distinctive menu, Old Fort Pub received a four-diamond honor from AAA, the only one in Beaufort County.

I cannot write this article without including Lou Benfante, Past President of The Heritage Library Foundation Board.

Lou dressed as General Mitchel for tours and lectures – he was General Mitchel! He created the Old Fort Pub dinner tour, captivating guests with historical stories at dinner in the upstairs room of The Old Fort Pub. I bet Charles Fraser would have loved to have had him to talk to his dinner guests.

Bonnie and Pierce owned four restaurants on the Island. A while ago Bonnie told a town commission that she was exploring redevelopment of these properties since. “My children want nothing to do with them.” After losing her husband, Pierce, the business became Bonnie’s alone. With a stable, well-loved company for more than 25 years, Bonnie had to make some adjustments. Old Fort Pub had closed in May and the building was demolished

in October. Before closing the door for the last time, Bonnie gave the historical pictures to me, donating them to the Heritage Library. The Library received them with great pleasure and plans to use them in some useful way in the future.

Writing this article was a great experience for me – wonderful memories.



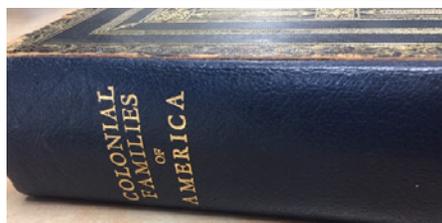
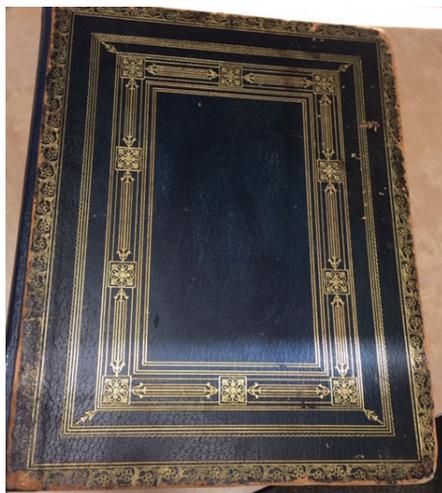
*The Ghosts and Myths of Hilton Head Island cast who gave six “closed-out” performances in October.
From left to right – Rich Thomas, Dee Phillips, Sheila Broadbent, Larry Stine, Tom Martin, Diane Larsen, Randy Larsen, Steve Hyslop.*

Explore Your Heritage

Book Review

This autumn, Heritage Library was gifted with an amazing volume. Friends of the Beaufort County Public Library, Hilton Head Branch presented us with *Colonial Families of America*, ed. by Ruth Lawrence, National Americana Society, New York; ca. 1928. Perusing this rare book, a few things stand out.

First, the size. This beautiful blue leather gold embossed, gold leafed volume measures 13 3/4" tall x 11" wide x 2 1/2" thick and is nearly 400 pages in length. Larger than most family Bibles. The pages are thicker than we are used to in contemporary "coffee table" books. As you carefully make your way through its pages, two special things become evident; many amazing lithographic portraits with signatures are found and interspersed throughout are hand-painted coat of arms with their heraldic explanations.

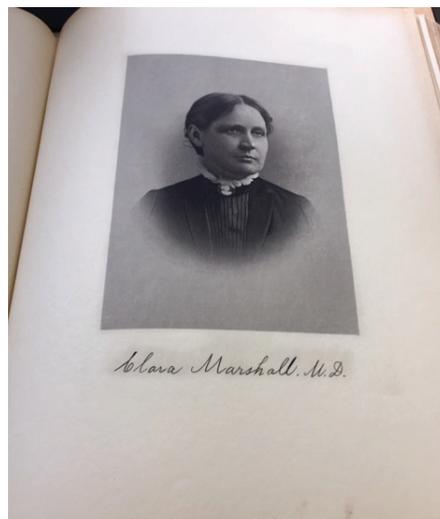


Consulting worldcat.org which shows holdings of member libraries, there are six other copies found in the South. Other libraries hold copies but are not members of WorldCat. Our volume is not numbered,

but there are others that are listed in WorldCat and Family Search with volume numbers.

I chose a very special woman from its pages to include as I was preparing this article. I might also add that she is not the only accomplished or celebrated female in this volume.

Dr. Clara Marshall was born in Philadelphia (West Chester), Pennsylvania on May 8, 1847, during the temporary residence of her prominent Quaker parents. She entered the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania for the "progressive course" of three years, when only two were required to graduate. Graduate she did on March 11, 1875 and was bestowed the degree of MD.



Remarkable that during her last year even while she pursued the MD degree, she was also an instructor of pharmaceuticals (then known as *materia medica and general therapeutics*). Her first job was Director of the Pharmacy Department at Women's Hospital of Philadelphia. During this time it appears she felt she needed even more training, and studied at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy.

Suffice to say, her career was long and distinguished. Many accolades are given within the text. Highlights: She was elected



By Julie Van Tilbury Orr
Volunteer

a member of the faculty of the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1876 and 1882 found her elected as the first woman to join the Obstetrical Department of Philadelphia General Hospital where concurrently she taught medical students from several colleges in Philadelphia.

Dr. Marshall broke several glass ceilings as she formed a women's medical society that was later absorbed into the local men's medical society. She lectured to nurses at the Jefferson Medical College Hospital in 1893. She produced many scholarly papers and also noteworthy exhibits. In 1898 she was a keynote speaker to the National American Women's Suffrage Association, Washington, DC delivering the address, "Fifty Years in Medicine for Women." The occasion was the 50th Anniversary of women's suffrage. Dr. Marshall was honored to serve as dean of her alma mater for twenty-nine years.

There is really no end to the discoveries you can make in this large and intriguing tome. For instance, the name Bloodgood, while you think it might be English, actually was anglicized from the Dutch, "Bloedgoed."

This book is full of stories with a lot of detail about distinguished American citizens from our not-too-distant past. Here are a few examples.

The Draper family reaches into Calhoun, NC, "Calhoun Cotton Mills". They had many investments in southern textiles and a keen interest in textile development. The Lee Family is interesting in that it is actually the Maryland branch. Josiah Lee, born in Deer Creek, Maryland on 5 December 1799 moved to Baltimore and became a successful banker active as a business leader until his death in 12 May 1852. Much is known of the Virginia Lee's, so it is interesting to find that the book suggests they are probably related.

Gannett family comes through the Plymouth Colony and they are not the only

ones in this book who hail from Plymouth. The Gannett name is synonymous with media in our day.

And then there are the Lowells. The great manufacturing center of Lowell, MA was founded by members of this distinguished family. The name Lowell commemorates Francis Cabot Lowell, in the front rank among the industrial leaders of America. Pioneers in the cotton industry, they built the first cotton mills in Waltham, MA. Percival Lowell is shown here as the founder

of the Lowell family of America. Amy Lowell, b. Brookline, Mass. 9 February 1874 was a notable poet of the early 20th C. She obtained her literary degree from Baylor University (yes, Waco, TX Baylor, founded in 1845). Amy was an American poet of the imagist school, which promoted a return to classical values. Dying on 12 May 1925 she posthumously was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1926.

While not carefully referenced or sourced, the editor puts forth a convincing work that

sometimes sounds stuffily snobbish to our modern ears. If you can stomach that, it is definitely a great place to liven up your deep research with fascinating anecdotal information.

Does this whet your appetite? The book is kept in the Library's rare book cabinet and when you want to read it Barbara will give you the key.

Colonial Families of America is a splendid addition to the Heritage Library Collection.

History Department

My name is Tom Martin, aka William Eddings Baynard. Mr. Baynard built the mausoleum which is nestled comfortably among the live oak trees in the Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery at Mathews Drive and William Hilton Parkway - 278. For many years I drove past the cemetery and often thought about checking out the mausoleum but I never did. Then one day I picked up my copy of the *Island Packet* and the banner headline read "IN JEOPARDY." The year was 2015 and from the article I learned that the mausoleum was the oldest, still standing intact, structure on Hilton Head Island and was in danger of collapsing. The article continued that The Heritage Library Foundation was starting a campaign to raise money to restore the mausoleum and was looking for volunteers to help. What better way to learn about the mausoleum than to volunteer. So I did. That eventually led me to become a Docent. But first I had to learn about Mr. Baynard and how he was important to Hilton Head Island history.

Baynard came to Hilton Head Island when he was 19 to manage Spanish Wells Plantation which he inherited from his father's estate. Along the way he married Catherine Adelaide Scott. She was 16 when they married and they had eight children. In 1845 Baynard moved his family to the Island when he purchased the Braddock's Point Plantation, known today as Sea Pines, from the Bank of Charleston. This would become the family's permanent home. In 1846 Mr. Baynard built the mausoleum with nine-

inch thick brick walls, sandstone exterior and a limestone roof with five slabs aside. The mausoleum was to be the final resting place for his family. He chose the location because the Zion Chapel of Ease was there and that was where many plantation families worshiped. Little did Mr. Baynard know that within a short four years he would be the first to be buried in his mausoleum.

The funeral procession started at Braddock's Point, proceeding past Shipyard, Leamington and Chaplin plantations to the cemetery. The service was held in the Zion Chapel of Ease. Catherine Baynard, pregnant with her eighth child, her seven children, and Uncle Ephraim occupied the first pew. The service ended and Mr. Baynard's iron casket was carried to the mausoleum and the marble doors were closed and sealed. And every day thereafter Catherine would ride alone in her carriage to the mausoleum where she conversed with her husband, telling him about his family and Anna Pope, the daughter he never knew.

As the mourners were departing, a wind came up which sounded like a "wailing" through the trees. Even today, islanders claim on some dark nights you can hear the sounds of the funeral procession as it makes its way from the now Baynard ruins to the Cemetery.

With this background it was time to call



By Tom Martin
History Volunteer

attention to the restoration of the mausoleum. The Zion Capital Fund was created with a committee responsible for raising the funds. My thoughts were to develop something informative and perhaps fun that would not only increase interest in preserving the mausoleum but also raise money. I recalled Atlanta had an event

that brought people to the Oakland Cemetery where the "residents" would appear to tell their own stories. Why couldn't we replicate that at Zion cemetery. I presented the idea to the Committee and the History Department along with the promise that I would portray Baynard in costume. Heritage Library obtained costumes for other cemetery residents and Lydia Davant, the first burial in 1795, and "Saucy Jack" Stoney, the privateer, appeared in Zion tours. Thus began our annual "Ghosts & Myths" Halloween adventure that brings to life cemetery residents from the Revolutionary War era to the 1840's Plantation era. Our event for 2021 was recently completed and I am happy to report all six performances were "Sold Out".

The effort to raise funds progresses to the long-range goal of completing the History Park. I hope you will find time to join a tour and perhaps help with a donation. But don't come at night unless you are prepared to meet some of us, cemetery residents, and perhaps hear the wailing wind through the trees.

Hilton Head Churches

Congregation Beth Yam

Established 1985

In this issue we take a look at Congregation Beth Yam – Southern Beaufort County’s home for the local Jewish community.

A small group of Jewish families began to meet together and formed The Jewish Community Association of Hilton Head in 1981. By 1985 the congregation became known as Congregation Beth Yam. (The name Beth Yam means House by the Sea.) The congregation grew and dedicated the first Jewish house of worship on Hilton Head Island on January 14, 1990.



By **Richard Chalk**
Volunteer

As a Reform Jewish community the congregation is open to all who uphold Jewish traditions yet allowing for innovation that embraces diversity while focusing on those beliefs that are held in common. Members come from many different backgrounds – Reform, Conservative, Orthodox and Reconstructionist.

There are over 300 member families and 60+ Associate families affiliated with the Congregation. Rabbi Brad Bloom has led the Congregation full-time since 2009.

Shabbat services are held every Friday evening with monthly Saturday morning Shabbat services. Services are also held for all High Holy Days.

Activities are provided for congregants of all ages – a youth group, Sisterhood, Men’s Club, and Senior Citizen Programs. Religious education is offered through the Hebrew School and there is a large Jewish library and resource center.

Congregation Beth Yam has a very informative and up-to-date website where additional information as well as a link to an extensive history can be found. <https://bethyam.org>

Heirs Property Project

The Heritage Library’s family research office, established to start our native island families on their way to resolving their heirs’ property land issues, is now underway. We have partnered with the Town of Hilton Head Island and USCB to make it a reality. Our office is located in the USCB Hilton Head campus building, and we meet with our clients by appointment. Our goal is to help them identify all the direct living descendants of the original deed holder, so that when we are



By **Linda Piekut**,
Project Director

done, the family can meet with their attorneys to resolve their land issues.

Clients will be referred to us by Dr. Sheryse DuBose, the Historic Neighborhood Preservation Administrator for the Town. We will then work with the client to organize the information currently available,

and then resort to our genealogy research techniques to fill in the blanks in their family tree.

We have completed our test case and worked out a lot of kinks in our processes.

As a final step, the client package was sent to the lead attorney at the Center for Heirs’ Property in Charleston to confirm that the information we provided was what an attorney would need to continue the process. We passed the test.

We have our first referral, and are looking forward to many more.

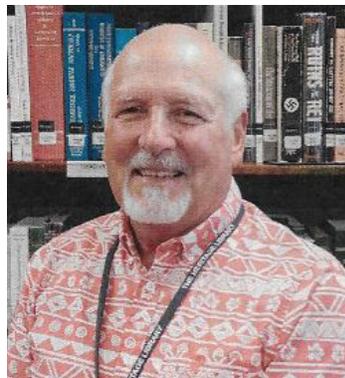
Our team consists of four volunteer researchers, Grinnell Griffith, Rosemary Staples, Murray Christopher, and Rick Bart. Jean Ward is our Family Tree Maker expert. More volunteers will be added as our workflow increases.



Grinnell Griffith



Jean Ward



Rick Bart



Rosemary Staples

Share Your Stories

*And when you're gone,
who remembers your name?
Who keeps your flame?
Who tells your story?*

From the musical "Hamilton" by
Lin-Manuel Miranda

The above quote from my favorite musical strikes me as a wonderful reminder for everyone working on their family history. You are the storyteller for your family. While you may feel you are the only person interested right now, you may be the one tasked to record their names and "keep the flame" going for future generations.

This does not mean that you must document

every person in every generation back to Adam and Eve. Sometimes researchers think they must "do it all." Then the task becomes daunting and often is left unfinished. Instead, consider "keeping the flame" going to spark some interest with others in your family, but in a more limited way. Maybe all you can compile is back three or four generations on one side of your family. That is great! Document the best you can, put them in historical context, and make your ancestors come alive with images and stories. For example, do you have family members who served in



By Carol Clemens
Volunteer

WWII? Document their service. Who will remember their service if you don't tell their story?; Do you have family members with interesting occupations? Write it up; Perhaps there is a woman in your family who broke through the glass ceiling. Give the details. Every family has interesting information to share.

As you do this you may find that you want to work on an additional segment of your family history. Whatever you decide to include, you will feel great that you have "kept the flame" going for your family, current and future.

Family is History and History is Family

Once upon a time there was a Hilton Head Historical Society and there was a Hilton Head Genealogical Society. Probably the thought was that the two were entirely different. However, to make a long story short, the two eventually were merged into what we know today as The Heritage Library Foundation. This creation blended two trains of thought – history and genealogy – into one entity that in the ensuing years has made its mark on this Island.

You cannot study the history of this Island, or indeed any geographical site, without also involving yourself in the genealogy of those who created the history. Likewise, if your "thing" is genealogy, you are also required to look at the history of those you are tracing. Not just the who, but the what; not just the when but the where. These four W's, the life-line of any good newspaper article, are also the foundation of the history and genealogy of a person, a family, a place.

As a genealogical researcher, I have always said my primary area of research was in the area that eventually became the United States of America. Because the majority of my ancestors came very early and a number of them were involved in the American Revolution, I have never done a great deal of research "across the pond" as I refer to research in other areas of the world. I have always been happy just to find out who the immigrant was and where he or she originated. However, I have often researched a certain geographic area to find out what might have been going

on there that would have enticed my ancestors to leave their native land and go to a foreign wilderness. What drove a family to make major changes is history.

As a former history teacher, I have always maintained that we must be aware of the actions and reactions that occurred during certain periods of time if we wish to understand history. If we do not make an effort to understand history, we are

doomed to repeat its worst aspects. I was once told by a curriculum specialist that there was only so much we could cover in 11th grade American History/ Government, and so the curriculum for that grade level would begin with the war that occurred in the 1860s. My reply was, "Not in my classroom, it won't." When I was told I couldn't possibly teach it all, I countered with, "Just watch me!" If we did not help students understand what came before that so-called "civil war", then they certainly wouldn't understand that time period either.

To quote the Heritage Library Executive Director, "Folks who have a focus on history think we (the Library) do not do enough for and about our history, and those with a love of genealogy think we need to do more in their area of interest." I have seen this attitude in a number of the Library patrons and volunteers, and I understand it. But, if you will stop to really think about it, a historian looks at the people who were the makers of history



By Sunni Bond
Contributor

in a given era as well as the time period itself. And as a genealogist, I know I have to consider what was going on in a particular time period to get a complete picture of my ancestors.

Why, for example, did one ancestor travel from North Carolina to Georgia, through Tennessee to Kentucky, and then eventually return to Tennessee to make his home, raise a family, and literally

start a dynasty that stayed in Tennessee for many generations and is still there, in part, today? What was going on in his life, in his place of residence, what was he searching for, and what finally made the difference in where he settled? That's history!

We need to, have to, face the fact that history and genealogy are so intermingled that to try to study one without the other is virtually impossible. That is what makes Heritage Library so unique. The programs and classes made available through this organization offer a look-see at the history of this Island and surrounding areas; the experience of the genealogical researchers helps lead an inquiring mind to a knowledge of how one's ancestors might have been involved in the events of the past. If you are not a native South Carolinian, you can still benefit from a study of the history of this area to learn how the Island has become what it is today. And perhaps it will entice you to learn more about the area of your family's origin wherever it might be.

Heritage Library Membership



By Laurette
Doscher-Benfante
Membership Chair

Welcome to 5 New and 24 Renewal Members who have joined our Heritage Library Family.

NEW MEMBERS	RENEWAL MEMBERS		
<p>South Carolina</p> <p>Hilton Head Island Michael Adams Melvin Campbell Margaret Greene Johnson Janice Kiley</p> <p>Out of State Mark Crowley, Weston, CT</p>	<p>South Carolina H. Ben Frazier, Lake Park, FL</p> <p>Bluffton Robert Carpenter Diane and Timothy Heitman Janet Luczak Linda Pearcy</p> <p>Charleston Barbara and Dayton Carpenter</p> <p>Greenville Patricia and Phillip Spangler</p>	<p>Hilton Head Island Kathleen and Richard Bart Katie Bolchoz Charles Calvert Charles Fairbairn Patricia Fall Rene and Herbert Ford Lee Edwards and Alan Green Angie and Walter Greenfield Roger Jones Linda and Robert Laughlin Karen Lucey Darlene and James Riggs Joyce and John Wilfore</p>	<p>Okatie Sandy and Thomas Jernigan</p> <p>Out of State Michelle Block, San Antonio, TX Amy and Timothy Davis, Wilmington, DE H. Ben Frazier, Lake Park, FL</p>

Coming in January! ProQuest “African American Heritage”

Starting in January, the Heritage Library will be adding this ground breaking digital resource exclusively devoted to African American family history research.

This is a comprehensive mix of resources, records, and tools specifically pertaining to African Americans, including:

- Primary sources devoted specifically to African American family history, including census records, vital records, freedman and slave records, church records, legal records, and more.
- Unique access to family history books related to African Americans, including titles from Genealogical

Publishing Company made available in digital format for the first time ever.

- Exclusive access to an updated, online edition of Black Genesis—an exhaustive guide that makes locating resources pertaining to slaves and free blacks easier.
- Exclusive partnership with AfriGeneas – recognized as a leading social networking site devoted to African American genealogy – that provides direct access to expert advice, moderated forums, chats, mailing lists, surname registry, and more.