
◊ Heritage Library News ◊

Volume VI, Issue 4

October — December 2002

NGS Regional Conference Hilton Head Island February 14~15, 2003

In conjunction with the National Genealogical Society, the Heritage Library is hosting a regional meeting of the Society at the Hilton Oceanfront Resort, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina on Friday and Saturday, February 14 and 15, 2003.

The meeting features nationally known Sheila Benedict and Cyndi Howells as our Saturday speakers. The Friday program features well known experts on South Carolina research and genealogy. Please see pages four and five for all the details.

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From the President

by *Bill Altstaetter*

As we approach the threshold of our seventh year, which will occur later in 2003, the members of the Foundation have much of which to be proud. We have crafted a place from where serious research into the subjects of history and genealogy may be accomplished. Some said, "It could not be done."

We have built and maintained a significant physical collection of worldwide data, books, periodicals, films, tapes, and CD-ROMS. Adding the on-line databases to which we regularly subscribe, we believe that here on Hilton Head Island the family historian or the student of general historical subjects has access at The Heritage Library to the equivalent of 50,000 volumes. The physical plant has grown from a single nine by twelve room to over 2000 sq. ft, from a single computer to an integrated network of 12 workstations and two servers with direct access to the worldwide web. They said it couldn't be done. Well we did it!

At the beginning of 2003 we have before us an array of challenges and opportunities. Members of the Foundation are working closely with other organizations with like interests on a number of projects. As this issue of the Newsletter goes to press it is only a matter of days before members and friends of The National Genealogical Society descend upon Hilton Head for a Regional Conference, our first real exposure to the national community of genealogists. Our Director of the Library will be featured along with top notch speakers from the South Carolina Achieves and nationally known and respected genealogists. If you have not already registered, do so immediately. See the special conference information page elsewhere in this issue.

Our publishing arm produced several books in 2002 and several more are in the works for 2003. A new printing of Hilton Head Island in the Civil War by Robert Carse is now available at the Library Bookstore for \$13.00. There are opportunities for volunteers wishing to participate in this publishing effort and with The Newsletter. If this piques your interest give us a call or send me an e-mail.

On a more somber note, by now you are aware that for the first time this year it became necessary to raise membership dues. A newly negotiated lease for our space resulted in increased occupancy costs. On the heels of the 9/11 events, the insurance companies, ours included, have raised rates and premiums "big time." Our fire and liability premium more than doubled in 2002 and we expect further raises this year. Your Board is examining our operating and capital budgets with a view to containing costs while keeping up the level and quality of service to members and patrons alike.

I am pleased to announce that the Town of Hilton Head Island through its Council has for the third year in a row made a most generous grant to the Foundation (90 percent of the funding requested).

BUT, it comes with a strong caveat. They wish to see us become more self sufficient. Genuinely more self sufficient. We are making a major appeal to our friends in the business and tourism communities, and will again be making strong appeals to you, our members and patrons. You will be hearing more about these programs at the up-coming annual meeting, February 19th, and in this column in future issues.

See you at the NGS Conference, and Happy Searching.

HERITAGE LIBRARY
The Courtyard Building-Suite 300
32 Office Park Road
Hilton Head Island, SC 29938

Library Telephone —
843-686-6560

Fax —
843-341-6493

Hours —
Monday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday
9 AM - 3 PM
(other hours by appointment)

Internet address —
www.heritagelib.org

E Mail —
webmaster@heritagelib.org

Newsletter Editor —
Sandee Hanahan



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Celebrating Black History Month

February is Black History month in the United States. With that in mind, I would like to mention some of the better resources for African-American genealogy research that are available on the Web and elsewhere. Very few of these sites have online records available. However, most of them offer excellent tutorials and background information. Armed with this information, you should be able to narrow the focus of your own search.

Here are some of the better sites that I know of:

Afrigeneas, probably the best-known Black American genealogy site: <http://www.afrigeneas.com/>

The AFRO-American Almanac: <http://www.toptags.com/aama/>

The Freedmen's Bureau Online: <http://www.freedmensbureau.com/>

Amistad Research Center: <http://www.tulane.edu/~amistad/>

Finding Your African American Ancestors: A Beginner Guide by the late David Thackery at <http://service.bfast.com/bfast/click?bfmid=5647408&siteid=39990321&bfpid=A286201&bfmttype=article>

African American Research by Roseann Reinemuth Hogan, Ph.D. at <http://www.ancestry.com/library/view/ancmag/2052.asp>

The Challenge of African American Research by Curt Witcher at <http://www.ancestry.com/library/view/ancmag/1586.asp>

The Southern Claims Commission by Reginald Washington at <http://www.ancestry.com/library/view/ancmag/213.asp>

The Freedman's Savings and Trust Company and African American Genealogical Research by Reginald Washington at http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/summer_1997_freedmans_savings_and_trust.html

Institutions of Memory and the Documentation of African Americans in Federal Records by Walter B. Hill, Jr. at http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/summer_1997_institutions_of_memory.html

The Britannica Guide to Black History: <http://blackhistory.eb.com/>

The Library of Congress Resource Guide for the Study of Black History and Culture: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/exhibits/african/intro.html>

Cyndi's List also has a listing of Black genealogy and heritage societies at: <http://www.cyndislist.com/african.htm#Societies>

Tony Burrough's, an internationally known authority and lecturer in the subject of African American genealogy has published several books on the subject. Tony is a professor at Chicago State University and a Fellow of the Utah Genealogical Association and received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Genealogical Society. A listing of his books and tapes can be accessed through *Barnes and Noble.com*, *Amazon.com*, or *Audiotapes.com*.

**NGS
Hilton Oceanfront Resort
February 14-15, 2003
Conference Program**

Friday — 14 February 2003

8:00—9:00 A.m. Registration [at the Hilton]

9:00—10:00 a.m. Session

F-1 Randy Holcombe-Director of the Heritage Library

Beginning Genealogy

10:30—11:30 a.m. Session

F-2 Alexia Jones Helsley-South Carolina Department of Archives & History

African American Research in the South Carolina State Archives

11:45—1:15 p.m.

Lunch on your own.

1:30—2:30 p.m. Session

F-3 Patrick McCawley-South Carolina Department of Archives & History

Civil War Research in the South Carolina State Archives

3:00—4:00 p.m. Session

Brent H. Holcomb

Researching in South Carolina's Alternative Records

5:00—6:00 p.m.

Reception hosted by The Heritage Library (Cash Bar)

On Monday thru Thursday prior to the conference computer workshops on *Family Treemaker*, *Basic and Advanced* and *the Master Genealogist* will be held at the Heritage Library facility, Suite 300, The Courtyard Building, 32 Office Park Road, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. There will be extended research hours at the Heritage Library on 10-15 February as a special service for those people attending the conference.

Saturday—15 February 2003

8:00—9:00 am. Registration [at the Hilton]

9:00—10:00 a.m. Sessions—You may attend either session during the time slot. You have the opportunity to hear either or both speakers throughout the day.

S-1 Sheila Benedict, CGRSSM

The Importance of Collateral Research

or

S-2 Cyndi Howells

Email: How to Communicate Easily and Effectively with the World

10:30—11:30 a.m. Sessions

S-3 Sheila Benedict, CGRSSM

Learn to Love Maps, County Histories, and City Directories

or

S-4 Cyndi Howells

The World Wide Web — Quit Surfing and Start Researching

11:45—1:15 p.m.

Luncheon with remarks by Rodger Stroup, director of the
South Carolina Department of Archives and History

1:30—2:30 p.m. Sessions

S-5 Sheila Benedict, CGRSSM

Newspaper Research Beyond Obituaries

or

S-6 Cyndi Howells

Evaluating Web Sites

3:00—4:00 p.m. Sessions

S-7 Sheila Benedict, CGRSSM

Collecting, Recording, and Evaluating Data

or

S-8 Cyndi Howells

Conquering Internet Search Engines

Honoring Our Military Past

The Library's Annual Fundraiser, *Honoring Our Military Past*, was a rousing success again this year.



Norma Harberger, center, Chairwoman of Silent Auction Items for 2003 fundraiser, with Jean Swetland, left and Gwen Altstaetter, Membership Chairman

Thanks to the help of our volunteers and the local community we were able to raise \$7,239. Norma Harberger, Chairwoman of the Silent Auction committee with the help of Dr. Jim and Jane Riley and other Library volunteers were able to garner over 100 auction items. Items ranged from golf at Harbour Town, tennis lessons at Wexford and South Beach, holiday decorations, sports items, and various and sundry beauty and decorative gifts.

We are also indebted to Southern Wines and Spirits for donating the wine for the wine tasting event.

Thanks also to our soldiers who literally volunteered for duty!!!

Sandee Canahan

Gala Committee Chairwoman

Note from the Membership Desk

Dear Members,

Please notify the library if you have changed your address. We try to keep our records current but we need your help. If you are only here part-time and need to have your Newsletter sent to a different address at certain times during the year let us know. Also if you are more than two months beyond your membership expiration date you will not receive our Quarterly Newsletter. Your expiration date is on the membership card and approximately a month before that date you will receive a "reminder" letter. We welcome new members, but we do need to keep the support of all members. Even if you are not presently actively using the library we appreciate your continued support so we will be here for you in the future and for those who are just beginning their search.

Welcome New Members

We have added more new members to our genealogy "family". Since September Alan Chaput, Frank and Diane Chmelik, Mollie Kitchener, Joseph Lawton, Elisa Ulino (from Maryland), Sharon and Danny Cupit (Mississippi), Pam Bredin, Mary Dickhaut, Jan Davis, Anthony Gaylord, Kathleen Ponds (Washington, D.C.), Miriam Waterhouse, Russell Lampman, Maria Jones, Charles and Erna Varner, Linda Dope (Indiana), Herb and Shirley Forder, Pamela Payne (New York), Douglas and Lamar Webb (Pennsylvania), Mr. and Mrs. Donald Barvoets, Clyde Johnston and Deborah Bowen (Georgia).

We welcome these members and invite them to become active researchers. Remember you can learn more about the Library and the subjects of history and genealogy by volunteering at the Library. Volunteers are what we are all about. Members helping members. If you would like to become a Library volunteer please inform the Librarian in charge on the day of your visit or

Annual Meeting Notice

Please note the 2003 Annual Meeting of the Heritage Library Foundation, Inc. is scheduled for Wednesday, February 19, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at the Library, Room 300 The Courtyard Building, 32 Office Park Road, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina.

All members are encouraged to attend. If you cannot attend please cut out the proxy below and mail to Norma Harberger, Secretary, Heritage Library, 32 Office park Road—Suite 300, Hilton Head Island, SC 29926 prior to the meeting date.



**HERITAGE LIBRARY FOUNDATION, INC.
2003 ANNUAL MEETING PROXY**

_____, *the undersigned member(s) (the "Member"), hereby designate the Secretary of the Corporation Norma Harberger or her designee (the "Proxy") as the proxy for the member(s), with respect to the member's voting rights in The Heritage Library Foundation, Inc. (the "Foundation").*

By this designation of proxy, the member hereby revokes any prior designation of proxy that the Member(s) may have given previously.

This designation of proxy shall be effective for the Annual Meeting of the Members of the Foundation to be held on Wednesday, February 19, 2003 at 10:00 a.m., and at all adjournments of such meeting.

The Proxy shall have the full power, as the member's substitute, to represent the member(s) and vote on all issues and motions that are properly presented at the meeting(s) for which this designation of proxy is effective. The Proxy shall have the authority to vote entirely in the discretion of the Proxy.

Provided, however, with respect to the following issue(s) the Proxy shall vote as follows:

Date of Signing: _____

Printed Name: _____

Member Signature: _____



L a s t W i d o w o f U n i o n V e t e r a n D i e s a t 9 3

Gertrude Janeway, the last widow of a Union veteran from the Civil War, died in Blaine, Tennessee, a week ago in the three-room log cabin where she lived most of her life. She was 93 years old. She lived her whole life in Blaine, about 30 miles north of Knoxville. She was a widow for more than six decades after the death of John Janeway, who married her when he was 81 and she was barely 18. Mrs. Janeway was born 44 years after the Civil War ended. In 1864 her future husband was a 19-year-old farm boy who ran away to enlist. He sent his horse home and signed up under the surname January because "he was afraid his people would come and claim him," she said.

Janeway was captured by Confederates two months later near Athens, Georgia. Paroled, he rejoined his unit, the 14th Illinois Cavalry, and served until the war ended. He spent many years in California before returning home to Tennessee and meeting then-16-year-old Gertrude. Her mother refused to sign papers to let her marry him before she turned 18. "So my man says, 'Well, I will wait for her until you won't have to,' " she recalled. "We sparked for three years." She remembered getting married in the middle of a dirt road in 1927 with family and friends gathered around. An honorary member of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Mrs. Janeway was the last recognized Union widow. She received a \$70 check each month from the Veterans Administration. Confederate widow Alberta Martin of Elba, Alabama, is still alive at the age of 95.

The Heritage Library
Foundation, Inc.
Suite 300
32 Office Park Road
Hilton Head Island SC
29928-4640



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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

February 14-15	National Genealogical Society Regional Meeting — Hilton Oceanfront Resort, Hilton Head Island
February 19	Heritage Library Annual Meeting — 10:00 a.m.
March 1	Georgia Genealogical Society <i>British Isles Seminar</i> with Sherry Irvine, Atlanta
March 11	Hilton Head Island Genealogical Society — Heritage Library 10:00 a.m.
April 25-26	Louisiana Genealogical & Historical Society featuring Elizabeth Shown Mills, Baton Rouge
May 28-31	National Genealogical Society <i>Conference in the States</i> — Pittsburgh, PA
September 3-6	Federation of Genealogical Society <i>Countdown to Discovery</i> — Orlando, FL