

THE BAYNARD MAUSOLEUM GETS A NEW DOOR

Baynard Mausoleum, ravaged by weather and war, has been carefully restored by The Heritage Library and our partners and donors beginning in 2013. For many years the mausoleum door was missing until the former Hilton Head Island Historical Society installed a temporary door in order to help protect what was the Island's oldest extant building (please see the note at the end of this article).

Through the years varied descriptions of the door have been found in newspaper articles, books and diaries, leaving us without much guidance for the design and construction of a permanent replacement door. Single and double doors were described. The building materials written about included wood, marble, and metal. There are no images that we could find, so we set out to make something that was fitting the structure and would provide protection for years to come. Designed, built and installed with the help of local artisans, this door reflects the period, place and architecture of the time and we hope you find it to be a worthy replacement to the original.

Scott Maxey and Herb Sink (The Woodshop, Inc.) designed and built double doors that



The new door.

open into the mausoleum. The doors are constructed from Sapele wood, using a mortise and tenon construction process, and sealed to further protect the doors from the elements. Sapele lumber, a popular African hardwood, is known for its reddish-brown color, strength, and stability, making it a versatile choice for furniture, cabinetry, flooring, and veneers, and often used as a substitute for mahogany. These fine craftsmen paid attention to detail in every aspect of their build.

The gate, in front of the doors was designed and built by Michael and Tracy Walden (Perfectly Rusted Ironworks). The Waldens used the fencing that surrounds the mausoleum in elements of the gate design. The fencing bars and finials are incorporated into the gate design as well as the fiddleheads found in the stone posts. The poppy represents the wars that have been a part of the history of this cemetery and mausoleum. Again, the attention to detail, commitment to their art and the end product are a testament to their talent.

The door and gate were fitted into a steel frame that will hold it in place for many years to come. Hand-forged gate and door hardware provide a wonderful design element as well useful mechanisms for opening, closing and locking the doors and gate.

The care, skill, talent, and professionalism of these two teams is evident in all aspects of this project, and it was a pleasure working with them from the design phase through to

installation. If you have the opportunity to see more of the work done by these talented teams – it will be more than worth your time. Visit the cemetery, see their work there, and learn more about our local history.

Additional work at the cemetery will continue as funding becomes available. The goal is to preserve and protect this historic site and help visitors and residents learn more about local history. We wish to thank those who have worked with us, continue to work with us, and donated financially as we work to preserve Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery.

Note: For many years, the Baynard Mausoleum, built in 1846, laid claim to being the oldest extant building on Hilton Head Island, but that recently changed. A tabby building on Squire Pope Road, known as the Barnwell Tabby, has laid claim to being the oldest standing building. Based on archival research, more than 800 cataloged artifacts found and luminescence dated (geological testing that can determine how long ago mineral grains were exposed to light), the team that studies the Barnwell Tabby is confident that the tabby was constructed before the Revolutionary War and was one of the island's earliest dwellings. We are happy to welcome the tabby structure into the important historic assets of our Island, even if we have to give up the title of being "oldest".



This temporary door has been removed.



Gate hardware detail.



James, Herb, Michael, Tracy & Scott - thank you!



Visit Zion Cemetery and the mausoleum's new door.



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By *Barbara Catenaci* | Executive Director

It is time to welcome spring, and after a winter that included freezing temperatures and a snowfall, I think the entire Island is very happy to welcome this new season.



Spring means that it is time for the RBC Heritage, bringing some of the PGA's finest golfers to Hilton Head Island's Harbour Town Links April 15th – 20th. The tournament is one of five PGA Tour events to surpass the 50-year milestone and is South Carolina's Signature Event. The RBC Heritage packs a major economic punch, generating more than \$134.9 million while contributing \$56.9 million to local charities. The Heritage Library is a designated charity and if you contribute through the Heritage Classic Foundation (Birdies for Charity and Champions Fore Charity) there is a 20% match provided. Let's get our plaid on and give a very warm welcome to this year's golfers and tournament attendees!

It is going to be a busy May at Heritage Library. Our "Authors and Afternoon Tea" program has been so popular that we are adding two more this spring! We are working with two local authors to present on May 12th & 17th. On the 12th from 2:00-4:00, you can meet Keith Rushing and learn about his book *Descended*. Keith will be joined by Ahmad Ward, Murray Christopher and Luana Graves-Sellars in a discussion on the journey of seeking and understanding what it means to find your roots. On May 17th, please join us from 1:00-2:00 to meet Andraya Brabham, a 10-year old author and founder of Andraya's Book Club. Andraya and her mother, Angella Cohen, wrote *The Adventures of Chocolate Drop* to reflect Andraya's love of adventure and learning and to share it all with young readers. This is a great parent/child event. Both events will be held at

USCB Hilton Head Campus. Seating at both events is limited and reservations are required – please check out the website to learn more.

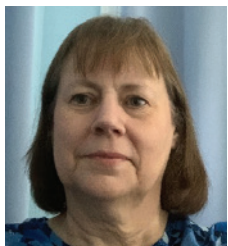
We are also introducing a new class in May – Beneath Your Feet – Hilton Head's Forgotten History Through Historic Maps. Featuring historic maps from the Island's 300+ year history, discover history that has been lost to time and development in this informative session. We'll discuss how the island has transformed from a wilderness to a world-renowned resort through the lens of our historic map collection. The class will be offered twice next month – on May 21 & May 28, 1:30 PM at University of South Carolina Beaufort, Hilton Head Campus. You must sign up in advance and can do that online at www.heritagelib.org.



Finally, keep a close eye on our Facebook page and watch what Ron Hodge, Peg Weschke, Roberta Morrissey and Jody Wigton are creating to help us celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE LIBRARY

EXPLORE THE UPDATED HERITAGELIB.ORG



BY JANE THEISSEN
Library Chair

As you probably know, the Heritage Library Foundation's website was recently updated. Hopefully, you have had a chance to check it out, but if not, I would encourage you to

take a look. It allows you to access a vast amount of information. With this update, it is now easier to navigate to the resources we provide. On the opening page, you are prompted to explore your ancestral heritage. Of course, you can also see what is available about the heritage of Hilton Head Island, its people, and its surrounds, and a lot more! There is a great deal to investigate here, so come in and explore!

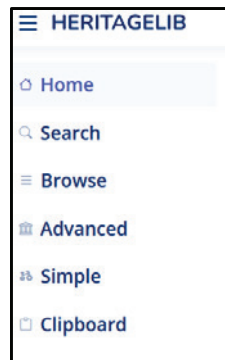
When you want to see what we have available in our physical collections, you can also search the Library's catalog from the website—your entry to our books, maps, periodicals, and other print resources. Our resources continue to grow resulting in a growing catalogue making this a large database to manage and explore. And because growing databases can sometimes be cumbersome to the first time user, we are providing a few tips and tricks to help you find what you are looking for.



To begin, you will need to start from the website's main webpage. If you have already been exploring and want to get back to the main page, just click on the Heritage Library logo in the upper left corner.

From here, click on "search the catalog" which will open on a new tab asking you to login to the Library. I know you do not have a login. Just type **HeritageLib** in for Library Name (upper/lower case does not

matter). There is no password, so click the Login button. (This is one of the peculiar things about our cataloging system. More on that later.)



offers additional options for searching and navigating the catalog.

HOME - will bring you back to this main catalog screen.

SEARCH - will give you the basic search box without the explanations shown on "Search Our Catalog."

BROWSE - takes you to an alphabetical list of all our titles. Selecting a letter or number above the list will jump you to titles beginning with your selection. Tabs at the top let you sort this list by Subjects, Authors, or Series Titles.

ADVANCED - allows you to focus your search. Each box with a down arrow provides options from which to choose (Author, Keyword, Title, etc.). The boxes with "and" in them also have down arrows,

allowing you to configure your search even more. Using "and" means that both terms you are searching for will appear in the results; "or" will present results with either of the terms in them; and "not" will exclude results with the term that follows it.

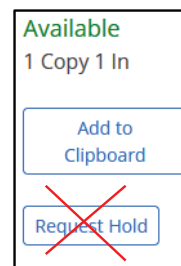
SIMPLE - provides one search box and also allows you to select the index you want to search.

CLIPBOARD - allows you to view and/or print a list of the items you have added to

The search box will be at the top of the screen. Below that you will see a brief explanation on how to access our materials. Please take a moment to read this as it will make it easier to locate items of interest. The menu on the left

the clipboard. Back on the list of your search results, you will see buttons on the right side of each item. One is "Add to Clipboard." Select "Add to Clipboard" if you want to save this item to a list that you can bring into the Library to retrieve them off the shelves. When you are finished doing your research, click on "Clipboard" on the left menu to see a list of the items you selected. There are various options for formatting the list via the buttons at the top of the clipboard screen as well as a button to print out the list. The Item view will include the most information about the items and will make it easiest to find them once you arrive in the Library.

The other button you will see here is "Request Hold." As I hope you know, the Heritage Library is not a lending library, and consequently, the "request hold" button does not function (even though the system gives you a form to fill in to hold an item). This is another of the quirky things about our



system, and I am sorry that this is confusing, but it is not something we can change in this program. This request goes somewhere into internet never-never land and we won't see it. So please, **do not** request a hold.

As noted above, this Hold button is not the only strange issue with our catalog. The fact that you have to login to get to the catalog is another. We realize that this is confusing for our patrons and apologize. We are in the

process of investigating options to replace this catalog system and welcome any suggestions you might have along these lines. Please send them, or any other questions about using the catalog, to librarian@heritagelib.org.

Once you have finished searching the catalog, you will likely want to return to the Heritage Library's main webpage to look around again. When you logged into the catalog, it opened this screen in a new tab. So look at the tabs at the top of your browser window and select the one that says "Home - Heritage Library." You will be right back on the home page and can continue exploring!

VOLUNTEERS STRENGTHEN THE COMMUNITY, ONE CONNECTION AT A TIME

The Lowcountry is known for its natural beauty, rich history, vibrant and diverse communities. But beyond the beaches, golf courses and the multitude of bridges, what truly makes our region special is the spirit of volunteerism that thrives here. Many of our neighbors, particularly retired professionals who have chosen this area as their home, bring a wealth of skill, experience, and passion that make an immeasurable difference in the lives of others.

Volunteering is often seen as an act of service, but those who dedicate their time to local nonprofits know that it is also an act of connecting to the community. The benefits of volunteering extend far beyond the organizations and individuals receiving support. It also enriches the lives of those who serve. Studies have shown that volunteering leads to improved mental and physical health, a greater sense of purpose, and increased social engagement. In a place where many come to enjoy their retirement years, giving back offers a sense of fulfillment and belonging that is just as rewarding as the service itself.

For nonprofit organizations, volunteers are



BY DEBBIE CAHOON
*Vice President for
Community Investment,
Community Foundation
of the Lowcountry*

essential. They provide critical hands-on assistance, professional expertise, and fresh perspectives that help these organizations effectively fulfill their missions. From mentoring students and supporting food pantries to historical preservation and beach cleanup, volunteers are the backbone of our local nonprofit sector. Their contributions amplify the impact of these

organizations, ensuring they can continue serving the community effectively.

A wonderful aspect of volunteerism is the relationships that develop along the way. When people from different backgrounds come together in service, they form bonds built on shared purpose and compassion. These connections often bridge generational, socioeconomic, and cultural divides, fostering a stronger, more inclusive community. Volunteering can set a powerful example for those who may be facing hardships. Seeing others give their time and talents inspires hope and demonstrates the strength of community support. Often, those who have benefited from volunteer-driven programs later become volunteers

themselves, completing a full circle of generosity and kindness.

Our community is filled with skilled individuals who bring a lifetime of knowledge in fields such as business, healthcare, education, and the arts. Their contributions, whether through hands-on service, board leadership, or mentorship, help nonprofits run more efficiently.

Together, through the power of volunteerism, we can strengthen our community, create lasting relationships, and inspire a legacy of service that benefits generations to come. If you are looking for a meaningful way to connect with others, contribute your skills, and make a lasting impact, consider volunteering with one of the many

incredible organizations in the Lowcountry. A great way to find new volunteer opportunities is through **Lowcountry Volunteer Connections.**

This online platform is a one-stop shop for nonprofits to post current needs. The site makes it easy for talented community members to respond to those needs. If you have any questions about specific skills you are interested in sharing with nonprofits, please contact Debbie Cahoon at 843.681.9100.



CHURCH HISTORIES ISLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH

Island Lutheran Church started with a small group of like-minded Lutherans who began meeting at the Port Royal clubhouse on Hilton Head Island in 1985. As the group grew, plans were made to seek a permanent home and a parcel of land was purchased at the corner of Main Street and Wilborn Road. Soon construction was started



BY RICHARD CHALK
Library Volunteer

on a sanctuary, meeting rooms and a church office. This first building phase was completed in April 1992.

The church motto is “Knowing and Sharing the Joy of Salvation through Jesus Christ”. This is carried out through a full range of opportunities for worship, Bible study for all ages and fellowship.

The congregation added a family life center in 2001, which has been made available to the larger community for a variety of uses from violin lessons to meeting space for groups like Neighborhood Outreach Connection.

Island Lutheran is affiliated with The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS). The membership today numbers around 450. Additional information can be found on their website.

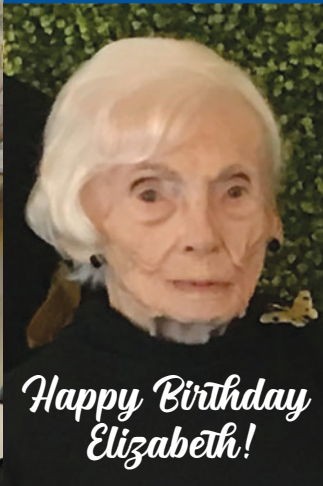


**APRIL IS
VOLUNTEER
APPRECIATION
MONTH**

It is Volunteer Appreciation Month – Here is our some of our team in action.

Elizabeth Hanson edited our newsletter and maintained our vertical files for many years and this month she celebrates her birthday – 102 years young. Happy Birthday Elizabeth!

Thank you to all our volunteers – you make a difference and you make history!



Educate & Celebrate

SOUTH CAROLINA WOMEN OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

BY THE SC 250 COMMITTEE



Ken Benkeser

Veda Keeling

Joe Player

Kathy Smith

Jane Stuart

The Library will publish a series of articles in The Observer that showcases the role of Women, African Americans, and Native Americans in the American Revolution. The articles that we publish in this space were researched and written by a team of volunteers including Ken Benkeser, Jane Stuart, Veda Keeling, Kathy Smith and Joe Player. More extensive information on these subjects will be added to our website as well.

Kate Barry

Kate Barry was born Margaret Catherine “Kate” Moore in 1752 near Spartanburg, South Carolina (SC), the daughter of Charles and Mary (nee Hamilton) Moore.



The Moore family home, Walnut Grove Plantation (Roebuck, Spartanburg County, SC) was built in 1765 on a land grant from British King George III. The Moore family was among the first British settlers in that area. At the age of 15, in 1767, Kate married Andrew Barry who later became a Captain in the

Patriot army during the Revolutionary War.

In January 1781, during the Revolutionary War, Kate put her extensive knowledge of the local SC backcountry to use by guiding groups of militias to join General Daniel Morgan’s Patriot forces who were in the midst of preparation for battle against the British near Cowpens in present day, Spartanburg County, SC.

During one of Kate’s rides, she was captured by British Loyalist forces, tied to a tree and lashed three times in an attempt to extract the location of Morgan’s Patriot forces. Kate remained steadfast, did not reveal the Patriots’ location and was released.

The January 17, 1781 clash, “The Battle of the Cowpens,” resulted in a resounding victory for Daniel Morgan’s Patriots over British forces and earned Kate Barry the title of “Heroine of the Battle of Cowpens” for her bravery and efforts.

Kate Barry died in 1823, and is buried with her husband Captain Andrew in the Walnut Grove Plantation cemetery in Roebuck, Spartanburg County, SC.

Rebecca Motte

Rebecca Motte was born Rebecca Brewton on June 15, 1737 in the Charleston, South Carolina (SC) area, the daughter of Robert and Mary (nee Griffith) Brewton. She grew up along the Santee River with her brother Miles Brewton, a leading Charleston merchant and an early supporter of the Patriot movement. On June 28, 1758, at the age of twenty-one, she married Jacob Motte, a member of an affluent family from Charleston.

At the outbreak of the American Revolution, the Mottes sided with the Patriots and often provided them with supplies. Unfortunately,



AMERICAN
REVOLUTIONARY
1775 WAR 2025
HERITAGE LIBRARY



Rebecca was struck by tragedy when only three of the couple’s seven children survived adulthood, and Jacob, her husband, died in 1780.

During the defense of Charleston (1780), Rebecca dispatched all able slaves from her plantation to Charleston to help construct the defenses of the city. When the British captured Charleston, her home in the city was selected as the headquarters for British Lieutenant Colonels Tarleton and Balfour with a company of soldiers. The now-widowed Motte eventually moved into Mt. Joseph Plantation, formerly owned by her brother Miles, near present day, St. Mathews, Calhoun County, SC.

Located atop high ground on the road to McCord’s Ferry, a crossing near the confluence of the Congaree and Wateree Rivers, Rebecca’s Mt. Joseph Plantation home became a target for the opposing armies. In the spring of 1781, British Lt. Donald McPherson arrived at Rebecca’s doorstep. McPherson banished Rebecca and her family to one of the plantation’s outbuildings, converted the three-story house into a veritable fortress, surrounded it with a palisade and reinforced it with a garrison of 165 men.

On May 8, 1781 Lt. Col. Henry “Light-Horse Harry” Lee and Brig. Gen. Francis Marion arrived to lay siege to “Fort Motte.” Rebecca graciously offered her temporary home to Lee, who used it as his headquarters. The Patriots began constructing a trench toward McPherson’s fortifications. Lee and Marion ordered bows and arrows made in anticipation of sending fire arrows into McPherson’s

ART, CULTURE & HISTORY IN OUR COMMUNITY AND STATE – IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE, A BIG DIFFERENCE!

Culture and the arts are vital for human expression, social cohesion, and understanding, enriching lives, fostering creativity, and promoting empathy and dialogue across diverse communities and cultures. While not its primary focus, culture and arts education cultivates skills such as observation, collaboration, and reflection that are conducive to creativity and adaptability, which are increasingly valued in the modern job market. It also builds vital socio-emotional skills to thrive in the world of tomorrow.

Recently, the Town’s Office of Cultural Affairs and the Arts Council of Hilton Head Island welcomed two of our state leaders in the arts to join local arts professionals and advocates to discuss activities that the South Carolina Arts Commission fosters and coordinates, grant funding, and efforts to increase participation in the arts. The South Carolina Arts Alliance’s Executive Director also shared updated information about how our arts, culture & history are also a driving force in our economy – consider the numbers:

According to a recent study by the University of South Carolina’s Darla Moore School of Business, South Carolina’s creative sector is responsible for:

- \$360.2 MILLION in tax revenue
- 123,000 jobs, paying \$5.7 BILLION in wages



- Is 5.5% of total employment in the state
- Has a \$14.1 BILLION total economic impact in South Carolina

What are we doing locally? Here is a quick look at the Community Snapshot from the 2023 Creative Vitality Report for Beaufort County:

- 13,458 Jobs
- \$491.6 MILLION Industry Earnings
- \$17.8 MILLION Nonprofit Revenues

These numbers are important because:

- Low income students engaged in the arts are more likely to find gainful employment and volunteer in their community.
- 97% of business leaders say creativity is increasingly important in the workplace.
- 72% of business leaders say creativity is the #1 skill they look for when hiring.

We have incredible and enriching experiences available to us in the art, history and culture



By Natalie Harvey
Director of Cultural Affairs,
Town of Hilton Head Island

realm locally, but they should also be recognized for the major role they play in keeping our local, regional, state and national economy growing. If you’d like to join the next arts and culture networking and informational meeting, please email oca@hiltonheadislandsc.gov. And, to find out about what’s happening in our creative community, visit www.culturehhi.org.



Educate & Celebrate continued from page 6.
position. Apprised of these preparations, Rebecca bravely offered Lee her own bow to assist in the destruction of her home.

At mid-day on May 12, a Patriot used Rebecca’s bow to set fire to the house and roof. Once ablaze, the Patriots opened an artillery barrage compelling McPherson to promptly

surrender and were able to stop the blaze from encompassing the entire home. Despite the damage, Rebecca returned to the house following the departure of Lee and Marion after the British surrender.

By the end of the war, Rebecca Brewton Motte was one of the wealthiest people in South Carolina. She inherited property from her

brother, Miles Brewton, who was lost at sea and from her husband, Jacob Motte, who died in 1780. After the war, Rebecca lived with her daughter and grandchildren who remembered she hung an old arrow quiver on the back of her chair to hold her knitting needles. Rebecca passed away in January 1815 and now rests in the St. Philips Church cemetery in Charleston, SC.

HISTORIC TOURS



Visit the gravesites of four Revolutionary War heroes and find out about the bloody skirmish that was fought just steps away. Site on the SC Liberty Trail.

Corner of Hwy. 278 & Mathews Dr.

TUESDAYS

March 18 - June 10
September 16 - October 7
October 28 - November 11
10:00-11:00am | Tickets \$10



Fort Mitchel contains the remains of a coastal defense battery erected in 1862 to protect the Port Royal Sound by way of Skull Creek from incursions by Confederate gunboats.

65 Skull Creek Dr., Hilton Head Plantation

THURSDAYS

March 20 - June 12
September 18 - October 9
October 30 - November 13
10:00-11:00am | Tickets \$10

CLASSES



**Beneath Your Feet –
 Hilton Head's Forgotten History
 Through Historic Maps**

- Joe Grondalski

Wed, May 21, 2025 | 1:30pm
Wed, May 28, 2025 | 1:30pm

PLAN A ROAD TRIP

When I moved from Hilton Head Island to Greenwood, SC, I did so with mixed emotions. I was glad to be leaving an area where I had to worry about hurricane evacuation six months out of the year. I was sad to be leaving my volunteer position at Heritage Library, but I hoped to be able to volunteer in the Genealogy Room of the Greenwood County Public Library in Greenwood. That last hope did not come to fruition.



BY SUNNI BOND
Contributing Writer

The pandemic had closed the library for a period of time. When it reopened, use of the Genealogy Room was limited and no volunteers were being used, and still are not being used. Cindy Ripko came from Ohio where she had been a very involved volunteer with a genealogy library there. Like me, she came to Greenwood with plans to volunteer in the Library's Genealogy Room. And she too was disappointed.

Cindy discovered that there were still plenty of people interested in genealogy in the area. She also discovered that the Greenwood Genealogy Society had ceased to exist in the past few years. She decided to do something about that. The initial meeting of a group of interested people, young and old, experienced and total novices, occurred at the library. We were surprised at the number of people who came to that meeting.

A second meeting was held in the Wesley Commons Library in the evening for the benefit of those working individuals who had not been able to attend the first meeting which had occurred in the daytime. Meeting at Wesley Commons also garnered some attendees from the residents at Wesley Commons who no longer drive. Cindy managed to secure a tour of the Genealogy Room for

our group on a Friday and it was a real eye-opener. If you have ancestors who came from this part of South Carolina, then this is a place you need to visit! While there are resources from other states, this genealogy room is the site of an abundance of materials about Greenwood County and surrounding counties. The Genealogy Room's regular hours are posted on the library website

<http://www2.youseemore.com/greenwood/>. However, a last-minute change might have to be made due to lack of staff. It is best to call ahead just to be sure it is open on the day you wish to visit. The main phone number for the library is 864-941-4650. After all, depending where you are traveling from, the journey to Greenwood might be as much as 4 hours or more and unless you plan to stay overnight, you do not want your trip to be a waste of time. Julie Horton is the reference librarian to whom you will want to address your questions about the use of the Genealogy Room. She and another library staffer, Laura Litwer, gave our group a thorough introduction to the resources held by the library.

The Greenwood Genealogy Group had a very successful meeting at Wesley Commons on February 17 where videos of several helpful suggestions were shown. Three highly experienced researchers were also able to offer suggestions to those less experienced. The group has chosen to meet on the third Monday of each month, 10:00 AM and at Wesley Commons. Attendees have been urged to bring their "how to" questions and hopefully the more experienced researchers will have answers.

We hope you visit Greenwood and see what we can do to add to your research.

AUTHORS & AFTERNOON TEA

Monday, May 12th 2:00-4:00pm
Descended: Searching for My Gullah-Geechee Roots by Keith Rushing

Saturday, May 17th | 1:00-3:00pm
The Adventures of Chocolate Drop by Andraya Brabham and Angella Cohen

Reserve your spot at www.heritagelib.org
 USCB - Hilton Head Island Campus | 1 Sand Shark Dr, Hilton Head Island

HOW TO FIX A MISPLACED CHILD IN FAMILY TREE MAKER



BY CAROL CLEMENS
Library Volunteer

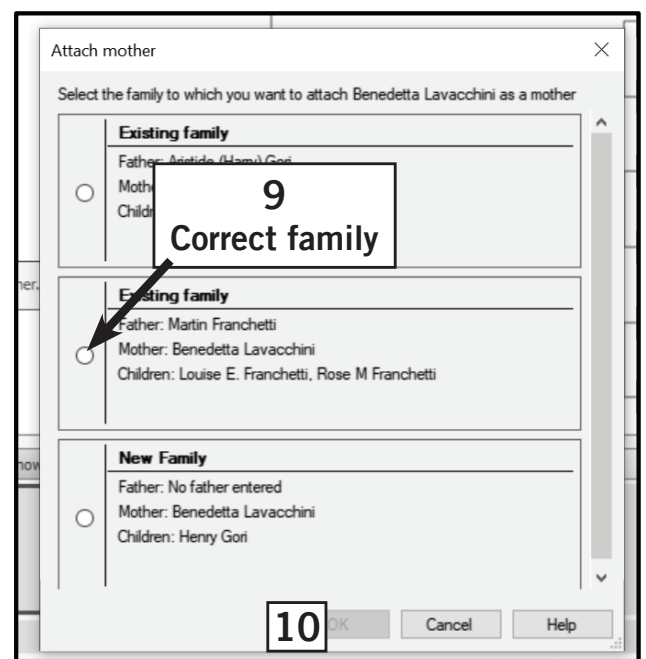
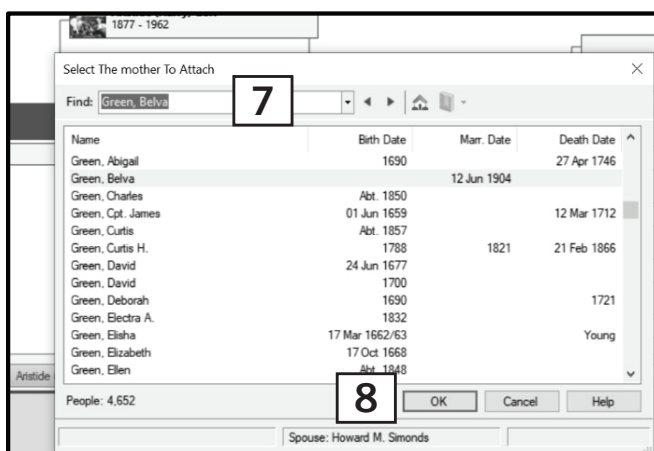
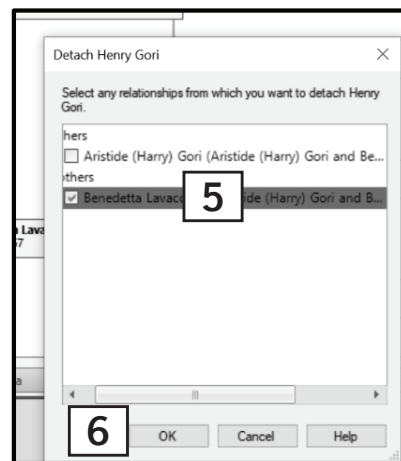
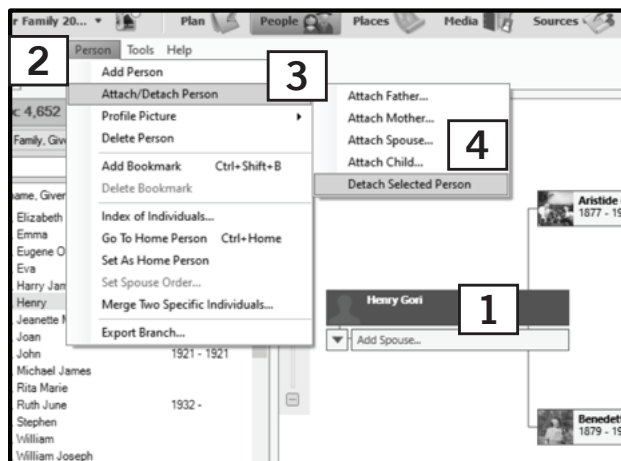
In the past few weeks, several people have asked me variations of the same question. What do I do if a child is not with the correct parents? The one thing you should never do is delete the child, because then they are gone entirely. Instead, you need to detach the child from the wrong parents and then attach him to the correct parents.

Follow the steps below.

1. Be sure that you have the correct mother (or father) already entered as a second spouse of the father (or mother).
2. In your tree view, click on the child to highlight the one you want to move (1) to the correct mother/father.

3. On the toolbar, click on PERSON (2) and from the drop down, select ATTACH/DETACH Person (3) and from the pop up on the right, select **DETACH** selected person. (4)
4. Select the parent that is **incorrect** (5) and click OK (6) at the bottom. This detaches the child, but you then need to attach him to the correct parents.
5. To ATTACH the child to the proper parent, repeat steps 2 and 3, but in step 3 select **ATTACH** (mother/father) as appropriate (4).
6. A box appears that says SELECT the (mother/father) to Attach. In the FIND bar (7), add the name of the person

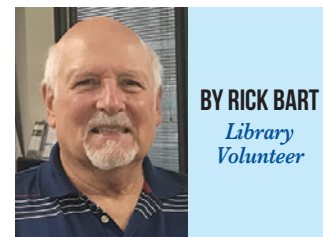
- that is the parent to whom you want to attach the child. It will appear in the list in the center and be sure you click to highlight the person. Click OK (8) at the bottom.
7. Several options appear. Pick the one that has the correct set of parents (9) and click OK (10) at the bottom. The child will then be with the proper parents.



INTERESTING ISLANDERS

Binyahs & Comyahs

CAESAR JOHNSON



Caesar Johnson was born on Hilton Head Island in 1872 and lived here until his passing in 1961. He is a binyah.

For much of his life he was known as a master sweet grass basket artist. He made his baskets of rushes, laced together with straw palmetto. Mr. Johnson made baskets that were in demand in his day and continue to be in demand even though he is no longer here. If you want to purchase a Caesar Johnson basket today, you might find them in auction houses and other estate sales – they are rare and will cost you a pretty penny, not so much back in the day.

In July of 1960, the *Savannah News* featured Mr. Johnson and his baskets in an article written by Charlotte Smith and photographed by Rowland Smith. In the article, he talked about electricity and telephones coming to Hilton Head Island just a few years back from 1960. As a young man, he farmed corn, sweet potatoes, peas, melons and tomatoes in the Folly Field area and took them to be sold in the “old time market in Savannah”. He took his produce to Savannah via the river route, utilizing ferryboats and the steamer “Cleveland”.

“We take ‘em to the ol’ time market in Savannah. We leave from Hilton Head on Friday, take our things to the ferryboat in a wagon. We load on to the ferry, then catch the Cleveland. Sometimes we go to Savannah, sometimes to ‘Fuskie or Jeckyl. When we go to Savannah, we have to lay over there on Saturday, and then come back on Sunday.”

It wasn’t just garden products that went to Savannah with Mr. Johnson, he also sold fish and oysters and strings of dried mullet. He sold his baskets too, of course and mentioned one customer in particular that he remembered when interviewed by the *Savannah News*. “Judge Saussy, he buy two of the big baskets I make. He engage me most particular, cause he want

to show his little chillum how tings use to be in ol’ days gone by.”

After the Civil War, the US wanted to fortify the coasts with forts and weapons and Hilton Head was chosen to harbor the Steam Gun (the remains can be found in today’s Port Royal Plantation community. The Steam Gun was located on the shores of Port Royal Sound about 200 yards north of the site of Fort Walker at about the location of the old T dock.



Caesar Johnson Basket circa. 1920

In 1869 dynamite was used to fire projectiles from cannons replacing Civil War black powder. In 1883 an Ohio school-teacher named D. M. Mefford developed a pneumatic gun. A Polish immigrant and veteran of the civil war, Edmund Louis Gray Zalinski (1849-1909) improved Mefford’s design as a steam gun with 2000 psi propelling a dynamite loaded seven-foot-long projectile out of a gun barrel with little shock, with no heat. The first was fired off Sandy Hook Proving Ground, Monmouth, NJ in 1894.

Construction of the gun began in 1897 and it was tested in late 1901. The facility was called “the 15-inch Pneumatic Dynamite Gun Plant”, Hilton Head, South Carolina. The newspapers of the

day had said that this “dynamite gun” very likely spelled the end of civilization; they warned that this largest and most powerful gun so far invented might trigger internal wrath in the earth’s core, causing earthquakes and other dire events. Ministers had exhorted congregations to pray that the gun not be fired.

Caesar Johnson was one of the islanders recruited to help build the weapon. In 1957 the *Charleston, South Carolina News and Courier* interviewed Caesar and he remembered the day of the firing clearly. He and another young man were used as human barrel-wipers for the big gun. “They pulled us through on ropes,” Caesar recalls. “No’m they didn’t wrap us up in anything. Just pulled us through while us hold the ropes.”

Caesar had helped to build the huge concrete mount, with a 360-degree circular firing gun emplacement, on the wind-swept site of Confederate Fort Walker. He had been hired along with the other young man to wheel sand in a borrow from the beach to a concrete mixer. And when the big experimental “devil gun” was finally mounted, he and his friend were the only workmen small enough for the barrel cleaning chore. As a reward for his efforts, he had a ringside post to watch the first firing of that gun. The projectile was about four feet long, he remembers, “but we didn’t see nothing when it come out. Jus’ a big loud noise. It went too fas’ to see ‘e come out.”

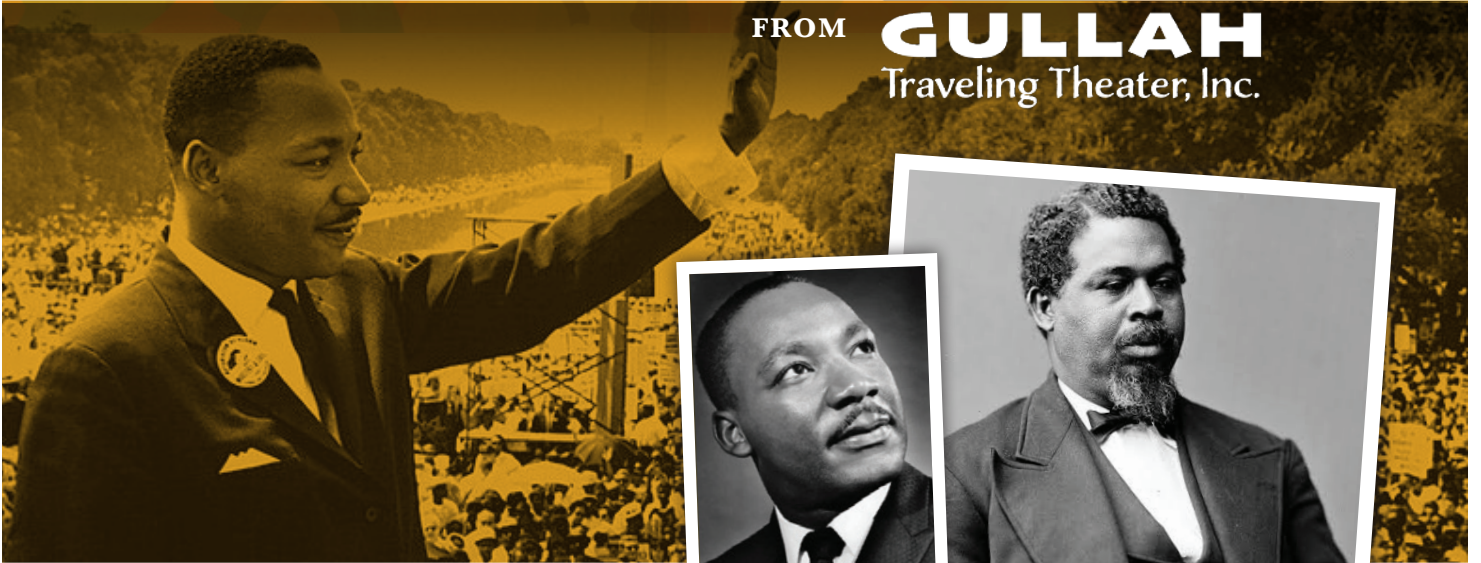
Caesar Johnson sewed beautiful basket, he helped his father to build tabby chimneys, he farmed, fished, loved his family, played a part in building a big and powerful gun and attended Queen Chapel. His life was full and the part he played in our island history is as intricate as the beautiful baskets that garnered him the attention of those not from Hilton Head Island.

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