

# THE HERITAGE OBSERVER

News from The Heritage Library

Bringing the Past to Life

## INCONVENIENT TRUTHS OF INHERITANCE SPAIN TO CUBA TO HILTON HEAD ISLAND TO MONACO ENDING IN MURDER

In March of this year, the Library received an interesting request from Mr. Carlos Dominguez, who reached out to us all the way from Spain. Mr. Dominguez was looking for additional information about his family members that once owned land on Hilton Head Island. The request came in on a Thursday so the team of genealogists working on Thursdays (Julie, Kirk and Rick) began to converse by email with the family so they could get into the research and find some answers. The results were interesting in the genealogy realm of course but they also enhanced our understanding of Island history at the time. We hope you enjoy meeting and learning about Robustrand and Ana



Nemesia de Rivas Herques. You will also learn more about our local history and land sales in the 1800s.

Robustrand Herques was born in Spain about 1837 and lived

Carlos Dominguez

in Cuba around 1853. In 1859, he was in New York City working with the firm of Harmony & Herques as a merchant commissioner. Around 1860 the society changed partners and became Herques & Maseras and later Herques & Company along with his cousin Anastasio Herques. In August 1863, he married Ana Nemesia de Rivas Cenac (1845-1888).

Ana Nemesia de Rivas Cenac, daughter of Ramon de Rivas y Lamar, was born in Cuba, daughter of Ramon de Rivas y Lamar who died February 15, 1877 in the 70th year of his age in St. Augustine, Florida and Florencia Cenac, who was born in Mantanzas, Cuba and died June 8, 1873 in New York City. Florencia's funeral was on June 11 at eleven o'clock am from her late residence, 388 Fifth Avenue. An article in the March 11, 1887 edition of the *New York City Tribune* noted



BY RICK BART, KIRK CLARKE & JULIE ORR

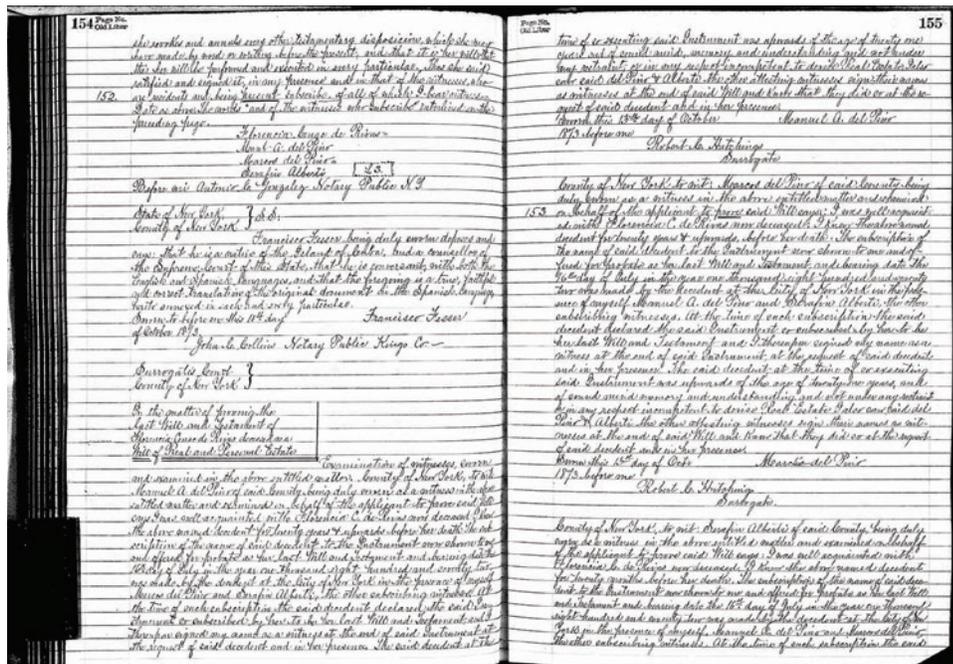
that when Ramon De Rivas y La Mar, "a wealthy Cuban who died here a few years ago", left a portion of his estate in the form of a trust to his married daughter, Mrs. Ana De Rivas Herques, and the

residue to four nieces and nephews who are also to receive the rest of the property at Mrs. Herques's death.

In December 1863, land sales were opened on Hilton Head Island. On December 2, 1863, Freeman Dodd bought 1,000 acres of Graham's Honey Horn Plantation for \$2,600. On the following February 20th he sold it to Ramon Rivas for \$10,000. Rivas sold half of this land quickly and a year later (August 05, 1865) sold the remaining 500 acres to Ana and Robustrand Herques at a profit of \$4,725 above its cost. By 1870 the Herques' re-sold the land to Edward and Eugenia  
*Continued on page 3...*



Rogelio Herques, 1865



Will of Florencia (Cenac) de Rivas

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[www.heritagelib.org](http://www.heritagelib.org)



# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By *Barbara Catenaci* | Executive Director

It is event season for The Heritage Library so please mark your calendars and get ready for Ghosts & Myths and Historic Holidays – Authors, Artists & Afternoon Tea. Ghosts & Myths kicks off the Halloween holiday with history and legend-based spooky tales told by the ghosts of Zion Cemetery. This event is always fun and our living history characters bring something new and interesting to the event each year. We will present this event October 18-21 at 7:30 PM at Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery. You definitely want to get your tickets early because this event traditionally sells out for every performance.

On November 25th, the Library will once again partner with local artists and authors and present Historic Holidays – Authors, Artists & Afternoon Tea. This holiday mart features more than 25 local artists and authors and it is a great event for starting your holiday shopping. In addition to finding the perfect holiday gift, you can meet a great group of talented locals, take in some history programming, and enjoy a holiday themed afternoon tea service. Some of the authors and artists joining us on November 25th include: Sallie Ann Robinson, Jim Alberto, Kara Artman, Full Spectrum Studio, Helena Appleton, Susan Diamond Riley, Michael

Smalls and Dino Badger, Pamela Ovens, Norma Deal, Beverly Jennings, Christine Stanley, Donna Paine, Joy Herman, Jami Wright, Hilton Head Pottery, Lowcountry Gullah, Nell and Ora Smith, and Miho Kinnis. We have room for just a few more. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please ask them to contact me. This event will run from 1:00-4:00 PM at USCB Hilton Head Island Campus.

Call the Library for additional information and purchase your tickets on the website [www.heritagelib.org](http://www.heritagelib.org).

Special thanks to Charlie Howell for donating the wonderful print of the South Carolina map from 1799. We have it hanging on the wall and folks have been referencing it with patrons since we hung it. Thank you Mr. Howell – we appreciate your generosity.

The Library has a new Facebook and Instagram presence. We have new pages with new information and posts that will keep you current on all this fun and excitement at The Heritage Library. You will also see some great posts from our many partners as we share their news as well. Check out these new spaces and don't forget to become a follower. AND, invite your friends and followers to join us as well.



## SAVE THE DATES

**CRESCENDO: October 10 – November 18, 2023.** This celebration kicks off with a party at Shelter Cove Community Park on October 10th from 4:00-6:00pm and closes with the Hilton Head Island Lantern Parade at Coligny Beach on November 18th.

**GHOSTS & MYTHS AT ZION CHAPEL OF EASE CEMETERY: October 18-21, 2023 | 7:30 PM**  
\$15 per person. Get tickets at [www.heritagelib.org](http://www.heritagelib.org).

**HISTORIC HOLIDAYS: AUTHORS, ARTISTS & AFTERNOON TEA: Saturday, November 25 | 1:00-4:00pm | USCB Hilton Head Island.** Register at [www.heritagelib.org](http://www.heritagelib.org).

**NEW ANCESTRY & HISTORY CLASSES:** Watch the website [www.heritagelib.org](http://www.heritagelib.org).

*Continued from page 1*

Valentine for \$7,800. A coffin marked “Remains of M. Herques” is reported to have been found in the Baynard Mausoleum but we have been unable to identify the family member that may have been buried there.

By 1888, Robustrand and Ana were living in Monaco and a terrible drama resulted in the deaths of three family members in June of that year. Raoul Herques, the Brazilian brother of Robustrand, who had joined them in Monaco, shot them both dead, and then turned the gun on himself. The crime must have been committed very quickly, for when the servants rushed into the dining room, on hearing the pistol shots, they found themselves in the presence of nothing but the three corpses.

A judicial inquiry followed the tragic events. The inquiry proved that the murderer and suicide, Raoul Herques, was some years ago employed by his brother, who managed their father’s house of business at New York. On the death of Mr. Herques Sr., M. Robustrand Herques, Raoul’s brother, disposed of his father’s business in a manner which did not meet with M. Raoul Herques’ approval. Nevertheless, Raoul succeeded in dissimulating the mortal anger which he felt against his brother on account of his energetic protests being disregarded.

Three months before the deaths, Raoul arrived at Monte Carlo and took a room in one of the best hotels. His brother and his wife were already installed at the villa, Raoul went to dine with them almost every evening. On several occasions discussions arose in the evening between the two brothers relative to the manner their father’s business had been disposed of, and at last Robustrand told his brother plainly that if he wished to live on good terms with him he must speak no more of the affair. It appeared to the judiciary that this is what enraged Raoul and made him resolve to kill his brother and his wife.

On Monday evening he went to dine as usual at Villa Anita and was less talkative than usual and almost immediately when the meal was over, he rose and with a revolver in each hand, killed his brother and sister in law by firing point blank at them. That done, he pointed the two revolvers at his own head and killed himself before the servants occupied in clearing the table could reach the scene of the terrible crime. It was also noted in the inquiry results

that he meant to commit it even if he met with resistance, for in addition to the two revolvers found in his hands there was another in his pocket, as well as two daggers.

In October of 1888, the *New York Times* reported the following as the family worked through wills and heirs. Excerpt: “...So far as could be learned by the Executors’ agents...Robustrand had made a will in favor of his wife...by the will of Mrs. Herques her husband is made principal heir to \$200,000 of which she held usufruct possession during life. Both testators being dead, and under such extraordinary circumstances, there arises a question of great importance to the natural heirs of both—who died last? Mr. Herques was heavily in debt, and it is thought that even with his wife’s estate he leave little more than enough to satisfy the creditors, so that the heirs would get nothing, even were it shown that he was last to expire. His heirs are his mother, Inocencia Navaz de Herques and a sister, Luisa de Herques y Navaz, who live in Madrid Spain. Messrs. Olcott, Mestre & Gonzales have charge of the interests of Mrs. Herques’s heirs. The latter are her six nephews and nieces, children of the late Ramond de Rivas and Manuel de Rivas, and are living in this city.”

The estate appears to have been settled in November. As reported: “The question of issuing letters testamentary on the estates of Robustrand De Herques and Ana R. De Herques, his wife, who were shot and killed by the former’s brother at Monte Carlo months ago, was passed upon yesterday finally by Surrogate Ransom. The couple made mutual wills. Herques appointed his wife executrix, but in the event of her death before him the Coudert brothers were to be the executors. As Mrs. De Herques died before her husband, and there being no residuary legatee, the Surrogate decides that letters shall be issue to next of kin, or, in default, to the public administrator.

Land sales, business dealings and family squabbles resulted in tragedy for this family, but this research project helped Mr. Dominguez make some family connections that reached from Spain to Hilton Head Island. We remain in contact with Mr. Dominguez and help him to learn more about his family as he continues his research. And maybe someday we will learn more about the coffin in the mausoleum.

## THE LIBRARY HAS JOINED THE POETRY TRAIL

The Heritage Library was invited to join the Island’s Poetry Trail and we of course accepted that generous invitation. Zion Cemetery is currently home to a poem by Susan Diamond Riley titled “Tell My Story When I’m Gone”.

If you are unfamiliar with the Poetry Trail here is a great description from the Island Writers’ Network:

*The Poetry Trail is all about the poets. It is a celebration of the art of poetry and it shares local poets’ writings in a new and interesting way.*

It’s all about collaboration! The project is a partnership between the Town of Hilton Head Island’s Office of Cultural Affairs and the Island Writers’ Network. Restaurants and art shops and theaters and historic spots are involved, and the poems just add to their stories.

And it’s all about keeping it fresh. Every season of the year, the poems at most stops will be switched out for others. The island is packed with poets, so they will swap out poems regularly so that you can meet all of them. Plus, that reading trail will keep changing, so you can visit again and again and it will always feel new.

How does it work? Along the trail are easy-to-find, numbered signs containing two QR codes. One takes you to a poem written by a poet living in the area, plus bonus information about that poet. The other takes you to the trail’s Facebook page, where you can find the entire route. There, you can plan a full tour, or comment on the poem, the art, or the business you visited along the way. Scanning the sign allows the Office of Cultural Affairs to track traffic, key data that helps direct new projects in our arts community.

We hope you get out and explore the trail and make sure you stop at Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery along the way.

# SPOTLIGHT ON THE LIBRARY

I'd like to talk about something a little different this time around. In past issues, I have discussed many of the resources that are available to you at the Heritage Library, not only our books, but vertical files, magazines, and our wonderful volunteers who are ready to help you further your family history research.



BY JANE THEISSEN  
Library Chair

Allen and his wife were in the Hilton Head area to set up a school and teach the newly emancipated slaves during the Civil War. This firsthand account provided an excellent perspective on life in the Lowcountry during and after the War, including details about how people lived, what they ate, how they managed to travel around

the region, and how they tried to keep cool during the summer!

*Coffin Point: the Strange Cases of Ed McTeer, Witchdoctor Sherriff* by Baynard Woods took the group in a completely different direction in July. Mr. McTeer became the sheriff of Beaufort County in the early 1900s when he was little more than twenty years old, and held that position for forty years. Despite his young age, McTeer was able to get citizens in the area to trust him. He was able to keep the peace and along the way, learned quite a bit about the voodoo/

hoodoo beliefs of the Black residents. For me it was a foray into a whole new world.

Both books have helped broaden my knowledge and understanding of life in the Lowcountry and I look forward to what is next. The Book Club meets at the Hilton Head Public Library at 11 a.m. on a Wednesday. The title of the book is announced well in advance and discussion questions for the meeting are disseminated to those who have registered. Copies of the chosen title are available for checkout at The Hilton Head branch of the Beaufort County Public Library. There is no long term commitment to the group, but we do ask that you register before each session so we know how many to expect. Information about the next title, the meeting date, and registration can be found on our Facebook page: [facebook.com/heritagelibraryfoundation/](https://facebook.com/heritagelibraryfoundation/) and on the Heritage Library's web page: <https://heritagelib.org/bookclub>.

We would love to have you join us!

But did you know that we also have a book club? In partnership with the Hilton Head Public Library, we meet four times a year. We began this collaboration in January and we have read and discussed a couple of wonderful books. The group is open to anyone who wishes to join us. We make sure to allow time for everyone to share their thoughts. Some very enlightening conversations have resulted from our first two books.

In January we discussed *A Yankee Scholar in Coastal South Carolina: William Francis Allen's Civil War Journals*, written while William

## HILTON HEAD CHURCHES CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH *Celebrating 50 Years*

*The Library continues to grow with more than 900 members and 75 volunteers supporting our work.*

*We can't do it without you -*

**THANK YOU.**

Christ Lutheran Church was formally organized with a charter service held on October 28, 1973. This month marks the church's 50th Anniversary.

The church had begun as a mission in 1972 when the Lutheran Church in America called on Pastor Boyd Cook to move to Hilton Head Island to establish a Lutheran ministry. Finding a few lifelong Lutherans and others drawn to the new ministry, there were 99 members who signed the Charter.

In the early years, services were held at the Montessori School, Adventure Inn, and the Island Theatre.

In 1975, the congregation was gifted land that had been set aside by the Greenwood Development Company, the developers of Palmetto Dunes, for a future church.



BY RICHARD CHALK  
Library Volunteer

Building plans were developed and a capital campaign was successful at meeting its goal of \$21,000. Groundbreaking occurred on September 7, 1975, and the first service in their own building was held on Palm Sunday, April 11, 1976.

The campus has grown from the initial sanctuary and multipurpose room with the 1988 addition of a new building with classrooms and church offices. This allowed the church's accredited preschool program to move from their double-wide trailer. Another addition was the purchase of an adjacent parcel of land to create more parking spaces.

Christ Lutheran Church continues to be an active congregation with around 200 members.

# Educate & Celebrate

## SOUTH CAROLINA IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION - BEAUFORT DISTRICT



As the war in the northern colonies intensified between the Colonial Army and the British Army, southern colonies (Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia) were quiet in comparison. The Beaufort district did see some action. On August 16, 1778, the English merchantman *Sally* surrendered to Patriot forces near Beaufort after suffering damage in a storm. The *Sally* had sailed from Jamaica under Capt. Samuel Wilkins, with 140 hogsheads of rum and was bound for Glasgow, Scotland.

In late 1778, the British renewed their efforts to subjugate their southern colonies by launching a foray into Georgia. On December 29, 1778, the city of Savannah fell. The war was now at the Beaufort district's backdoor. As George Washington held the British army at bay in New York, the outcome of the war now rested on the shoulders of Patriots in the South. These Patriots were more than up to the task.

Two weeks before the fall of Savannah, the newly acquired Patriot privateer *Sally*, led by Capt. Benjamin Stone, had a short

engagement with a large British transport ship. After having several men killed and wounded and no wind to maneuver his ship, the captain had his men row the ship to a safe distance from the enemy before returning to Charlestown. Capt. Francis Johnson and five other sailors were killed by enemy musket fire. Twelve were wounded.

The Beaufort District felt the war's heat in the first days of February 1779. On February 1st, British troops under Major Valentine Gardiner landed on Hilton

Head Island and were fired upon by Capt. James Doharty's militia. The landing force pursued the militia and burned down two houses it had been occupying. The ships continued up the Broad River, anchoring opposite the plantation of

Brigadier General Stephen Bull on Port Royal Island. Capt. Patrick Murray was sent to burn the plantations of the owners who had fled. The first to be torched was Capt. Thomas Heyward, Jr.'s home, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. The next morning, the brigantine HMS *Lord George Germaine*



BY JIM CLOSSON  
SAR Registrar

bombarded Bull's house, chasing the militia out into the open. A landing force of the 60th Regiment of Foot, led by Lt. Breitenbach, drove the militia into the woods and at bay. All the furniture, except for a billiard table, was removed from Bull's house. It was set afire and burned to the ground.

The force that had attacked Hilton Head and Bull's Plantation during the previous two days learned of the Patriot's destroying their own garrison at Fort Lyttleton. They decided the time was right to seize all of Port Royal Island. Doing so would gain them the largest deep-water harbor on the Atlantic coast south of New York. It would give the British a harbor deep enough and large enough for a fleet that could then easily move on Charlestown.

After making a successful amphibious landing and securing a nearby ferry, the British light infantry and sailors were battling with Patriot Militia forces under the command of Brigadier General William Moultrie outside the town of Beaufort. After a long fight both sides ran out of powder. The British troops withdrew to their ships. The capture of Beaufort and Port Royal Island would have to wait for another day.



## SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS VEDA & BAILEY KEELING

Both Veda and Bailey bring a wealth of genealogy and history knowledge and experience to the Library. They have played pivotal roles in the Daughters of the American Revolution and Sons of the American Revolution, including serving as registrars for the organizations. Veda also has worked on a number of special projects organizing and documenting Library resources, sometimes with the assistance of her good friend Carolyn

Robinson (another valuable volunteer). Both have a love for telling their family history through their research and sharing it with family and friends. The last report from Bailey had him tracing his roots back to the Vikings. Just a note – if you need hints, tricks and tips for your next visit to Disney World – Bailey is your guy! Veda volunteers on Mondays and Bailey is at the Library on Tuesdays.



When the Keelings are not hard at work in the Library, they are taking a quick rest after a full day at Disney.

# FALL CLASSES

Thursday, November 2, 2023 | 10:30am

## Underwater Secrets of Port Royal

Location: USCB Hilton Head Campus, Room 213

Presenter: Richard Thomas

Centuries of weather and warfare have left underwater vestiges of a past filled with intrigue and tragedy. The locations and stories behind these known remnants of a former age are revealed through research into documented sources, coincidental encounters, and the use of modern technology in the pursuit of underwater archaeology.

Cost: \$10 non-members | \$8 for members



Tuesday, November 7, 2023 | 1:30pm

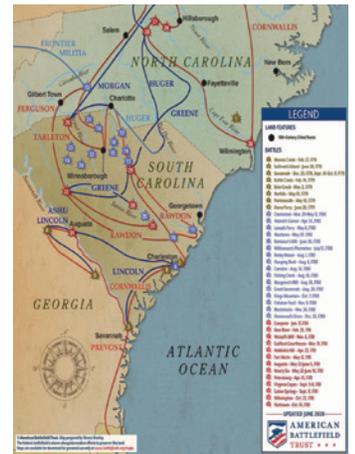
## The Southern Campaign in South Carolina 1776-1780

Location: USCB Hilton Head Campus, Room 213

Presenter: Lee J. Wilwerding

This is a Semiquincentennial presentation. The British had a successful run in the South for four years which led to inflated expectations for Victory. But wait there's more to come.

Cost: \$10 non-members | \$8 for members



Thursday, November 9, 2023 | 10:30am

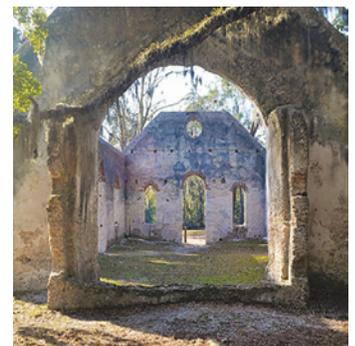
## Forts of Port Royal

Location: USCB Hilton Head Campus, Room 213

Presenter: Richard Thomas

Over 42 fortifications of various kinds have been built along the shores of Port Royal Sound for protection against hostile natives and enemy raids since the mid-1500's. This presentation covers their locations, the period they existed, and the history of the most significant among them.

Cost: \$10 non-members | \$8 for members



Tuesday, November 14, 2023 | 1:30pm

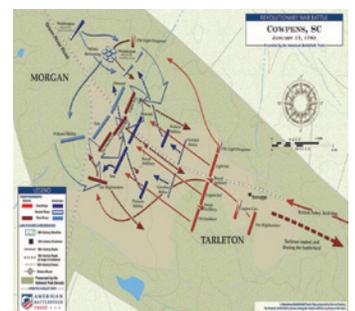
## The Southern Campaign 1781

Location: USCB Hilton Head Campus, Room 213

Presenter: Lee J. Wilwerding

This is a Semiquincentennial presentation. MG Nathaniel Greene was second only to George Washington in the panoply of Revolutionary War successful Generals. But his campaign in 1781 was a series of tactical defeats that still resulted in Victory for the Patriot Cause.

Cost: \$10 non-members | \$8 for members



THE HERITAGE LIBRARY PRESENTS

# GHOSTS & MYTHS OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND

AT THE ZION CEMETERY AND BAYNARD MAUSOLEUM OUTDOOR LEARNING CENTER

**OCTOBER 18-21**  
ONE SHOW NIGHTLY AT 7:30PM  
\$15 PER PERSON  
PURCHASE TICKETS AT HERITAGELIB.ORG  
CORNER OF 278 & MATHEWS DRIVE  
Space is limited - reserve early.

HISTORIC HOLIDAYS ON HILTON HEAD ISLAND  
*A Celebration of Sea Island Traditions*

## AUTHORS, ARTISTS & AFTERNOON TEA

SATURDAY, NOV. 25, 2023  
1:00-4:00PM  
USCB - HHI CAMPUS  
REGISTER NOW AT HERITAGELIB.ORG



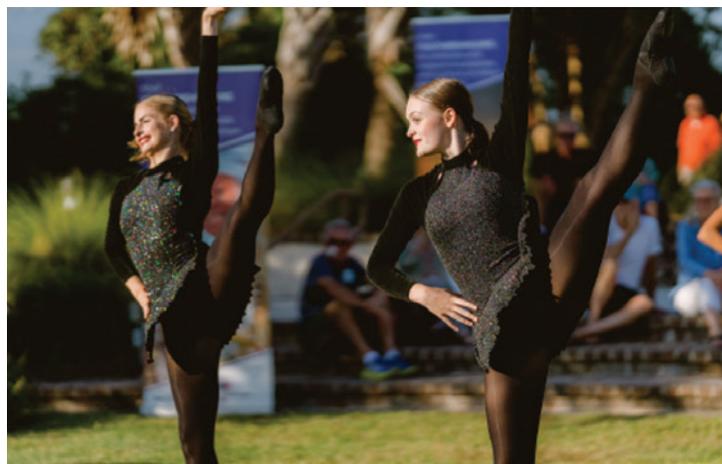
# Crescendo

JOIN US THIS FALL  
OCTOBER 10 - NOVEMBER 18



## CELEBRATING ARTS, CULTURE, AND HISTORY

Hilton Head Island's month-long celebration has something for everyone! Check out the schedule of live music, theatrical performances, museum and gallery exhibitions, enlightening lectures, inspiring poetry readings, captivating dance performances, historical tours, hands-on arts experiences, and educational offerings at [culturehhi.org](http://culturehhi.org).



Scan for Events



# The Tradition Continues - The Town Celebrates 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN'S INCORPORATION AND THE 360TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR ISLAND BEING SIGHTED BY WILLIAM HILTON.

It started 10 years ago with a 350/30 Celebration and a decade later, the tradition continues. The 360/40 Celebration kicked off on August 26th with a Community Picnic and it was a great event. There were dignitaries, proclamations, music, food, entertainment, games and more – in other words something for everyone.

The Town closed out the 360/40



Celebration with a truly wonderful Community Concert on September 16th. Performers included Sophia Scott,

Trent Tomlinson, Bridgette Tatum, Matt Warren, James McNair, Bobby Pinson, Clint Daniels, Sarah Buxton, Luc Nyhus, Dean Dillon and LOCASH. It goes without saying that a good time was had by all.

In between these two main events there were many other opportunities to celebrate our Island and its history, culture art and community spirit.



Hard at work at the Heritage Library's Color a Bag - Take a Bag Table



Mayor and Mrs. Perry welcomed Governor and Mrs. MacMaster to the celebration.



Voices of El Shaddai Choir entertained the crowd.



The Orlando Family had a great time.



Rosemary Staples and Angie Stone were there to volunteer.



The Town closed out the 360/40 Celebration with great music.

# LOOK TO OTHER LIBRARIES

The Heritage Library is our “go to” library, but when you are doing extensive research you sometimes have to reach out beyond your home library and explore what others can offer. The Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center is a worth exploring.



BY CAROL CLEMENS  
Library Volunteer  
Instructor

The Center’s free monthly e-zine, *Genealogy Gems*, is full of research tips, interesting stories, tech tips, and a list of upcoming free virtual programs. Sign up for this excellent publication by clicking the link below and completing the form.

<https://acpl.lib.in.us/community/genealogy-gems>

Ft. Wayne, Indiana’s Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center (ACPL Genealogy Center) is an outstanding facility that provides access to a wide range of genealogy resources and both on-site and virtual programs. While it might be assumed that this center is only of interest to those with Indiana roots, this is far from correct. In fact, in 2023 the online *Family Tree Magazine* ranked the APCL Genealogy Center as the top genealogy center in the US, with the Family Search Library finishing second. There is a large, free database with a search engine to use from home and many other databases that can only be accessed at the library. <https://acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy>

A recent issue of *Genealogy Gems* included a story about researching ancestors who served in the UK Coast Guard with links to free databases. Another interesting story included PERSI links to stories related to coffee. For example, *Gus Comstock drank 85 cups of coffee, became world champion, 1927*, Otter Tail County (MN) Historical Society Newsletter, Vol. 37, Issue 3 (Jun 2011); *John Martz charged with poisoning family, arsenic in coffee pot*, Daily Notes excerpt, Mar. 1905 Keyhole (Genealogical Society of Southwestern Pennsylvania), Issue 4 (Win 2018); and *Kate Stone diary excerpt, use of okra for coffee*

during Civil War, 1860s Newsletter of the Smith County (TX) Historical Society, Nov 2011. Such items could provide interesting background information for your family tree.

Each issue of *Genealogy Gems* includes a list of free, virtual programs. Just register by clicking the link provided for each. Examples of some offerings this past year include: “Finding Scottish Ancestors Online”; “21st Century Italian Genealogy”; “After the Fire: Overcoming Record Loss”; “How to Organize all this Genealogy Stuff”; “Tips for Locating Hard to Find Census Records”; and “International Research: Where to Begin?”

I highly suggest visiting the website for more info and using the free search engine. Sign up for *Genealogy Gems*, too! It is always full of interesting and helpful information. If you are travelling near northwest Indiana, I encourage you to visit this free Genealogy Center. You never know what you might discover.

## SAMUEL FRERICHS, EAGLE SCOUT BOY SCOUT TROOP 245

Samuel Frerichs set out to earn Eagle Scout status this summer and we are happy to report that he did just that. Samuel and fellow scouts from Troop 245 worked with the Library and Hilton Head Plantation POA to help clean up parts of Ft. Mitchel, remove an old and decaying kiosk, repaint safety stripes on the fort pathway steps and assemble and install two new benches. All that work helps the Library to continue to improve our historic sites and showcases the community service provided by the great young people in our scout (Boys & Girls) programs. Samuel will receive his Eagle Scout Badge and Medal at a ceremony in December.

Samuel took the lead on this project from planning to implementation and even presenting his work to our Board of Directors. Joining Samuel in this project

were Gray Rezzetano, Connor Huston, Connor Flood, Jack Gatlin, and Josiah Gilman. Duan Reindl and Michael Bennett (Troop Leader) provided expert guidance to the hardworking scouts. We also want to thank HHP POA (administration, security and facilities) for the help that they provided throughout. Everyone at HHP POA was willing to lend a hand



and help ensure that this project was completed and on time – thank you.

We are grateful to the scouts and proud to be a part of this project. Congratulations Samuel – an honor well deserved.



## HISTORY DEPARTMENT

# ISAAC BALDWIN, A HILTON HEAD PATRIOT

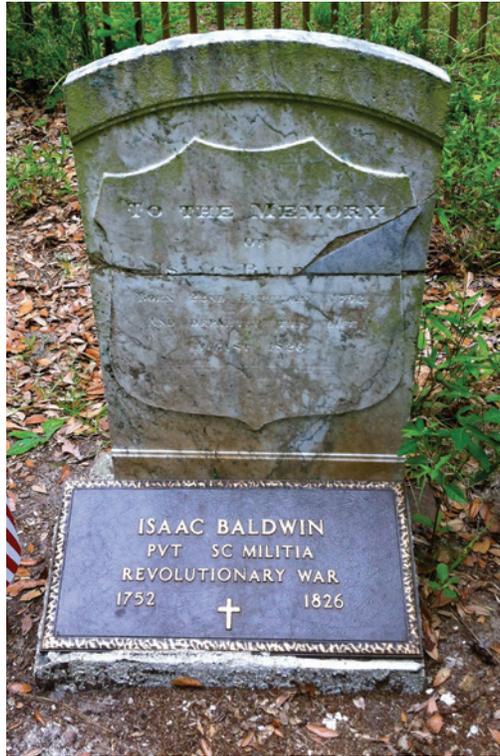
By Kathy Smith

The Zion Cemetery is significant to the history of Hilton Head, holding a place of importance in the American Revolution. One of the four men who are buried/memorialized in the cemetery was a man by the name of Isaac Baldwin.

Isaac Baldwin first lived in New Jersey where he worked in a shipyard until the British started making raids on the yards, destroying the industry. He migrated to Hilton Head where he became a soldier under John Leacraft to protect the island. At that time the area was filled with Tories. Baldwin was part of the “Bloody Legion,” a group of patriots who killed Philip Martinangel of the Royal Militia in revenge for the death of Charles Davant, Hilton Head’s only casualty during the American Revolution.

Baldwin became a planter on the island. He bought a small plantation in 1785, learning about farming from his friend, Charles Barksdale. He felt he owed a great deal to Barksdale and helped Barksdale’s son by paying for his college after Barksdale died.

Baldwin was married twice. His first wife died, leaving him with two small boys. At the suggestion of his friend, Captain



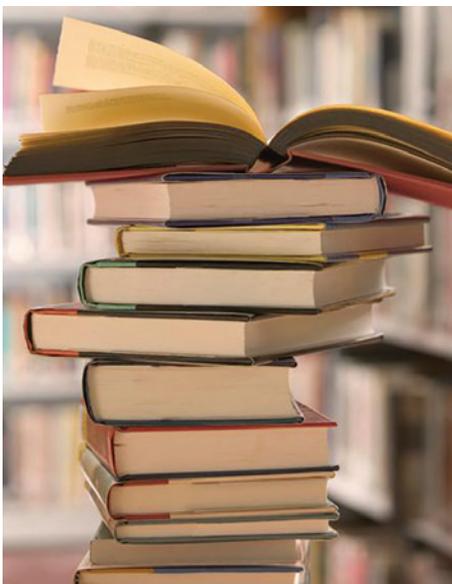
Leacraft, he courted and married Martha Parmeter. They were the parents of two daughters, Sarah and Mary. Sarah was engaged to James Kirk, prominent planter, but she died at age 16. James then turned his attentions to young Mary. They became engaged and were married when Mary was 14 and James was 27.

Baldwin held several jobs, in addition to being a planter, a soldier, and shipbuilder. He tried politics and was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives for a two-year term. He only served one year, returning to Hilton Head and his plantation. There are also indications that he owned a tavern in Savannah, eventually selling it.

Isaac Baldwin died in 1826 and was buried at the Zion Cemetery. His wife, Martha, and his two daughters, Mary and Sarah, are also buried in the plot, referred to as the Kirk plot which was Mary’s married name. Isaac Baldwin was a patriot, a landowner, a husband, and a father. He lived during an exciting and important time in our country’s history. It is important to remember those who contributed so much to the history of our country.



*Kathy Smith serves as co-chair charged with coordinating history programs and is pictured here in her role as Frances Gage.*



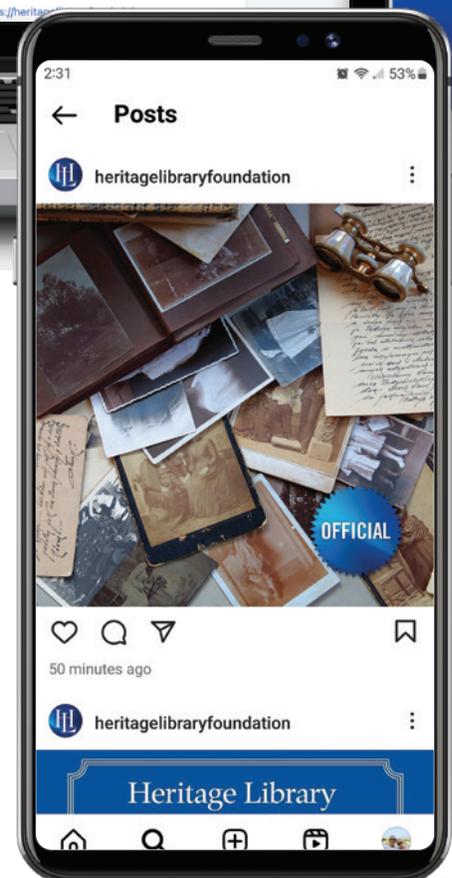
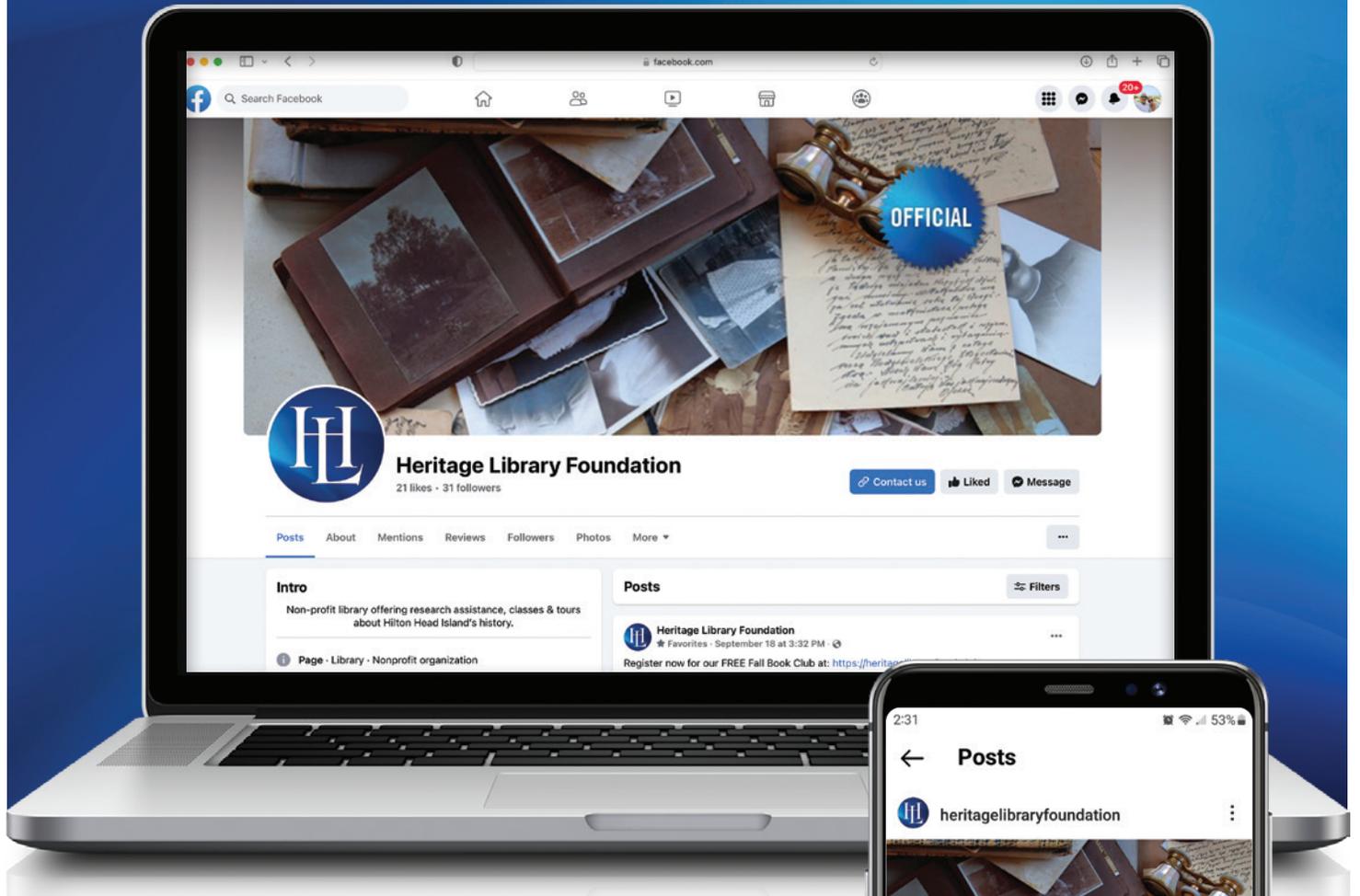
## BOOKS, BOOKS, AND MORE BOOKS

*Donated to  
The Heritage Library Foundation  
from the private archives of  
Elizabeth Cale*

The Library offers our sincere thanks to Elizabeth Cale for her most generous donation from her impressive book collection. Ms. Cale is a local archivist and she provided the Library with books, clippings and binders filled with information on the American Revolutionary War, the Civil War, South Carolina history,

the Gullah Culture, Reconstruction, and more. She didn’t just donate the books, she packed them up and helped us get them to the Library. Our Library volunteers are sorting through more than 34 jam-packed boxes, so watch the catalogue as we add to our collection or come in and see all that is new in what we offer. Ms. Cale has some extra space on her bookshelves, but this donation will certainly go toward filling our shelves and making it possible for us to share new and interesting resources with you. Thank you Elizabeth – your generosity is very much appreciated.

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BY LAURETTE  
DOSCHER-BENFANTE  
*Membership Chair*

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### ZION CEMETERY & BAYNARD MAUSOLEUM COSTUMED CEMETERY TOUR

TUESDAYS | 10:30AM



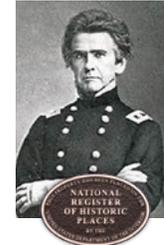
Visit the gravesites of four Revolutionary War heroes and find out about the bloody skirmish that was fought just steps away. Site on the SC Liberty Trail.

Corner of Hwy. 278 & Mathews Dr.

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### HISTORIC FT. MITCHEL TOUR

THURSDAYS | 10:30AM



Fort Mitchell 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.

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## HERITAGE BOOK CLUB

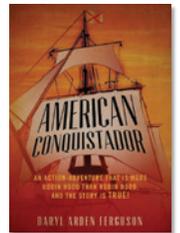
WEDNESDAY, OCT 11 | 11AM

Book Club Discussion | Hilton Head Public Library  
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### *American Conquistador*

by Daryl Arden Ferguson

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