

# Heritage Library News

Hilton Head Island Historical Society Founded 1961 Historical Education and Preservation

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Fall 2005 Volume IX Issue 3

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# IN MEMORIUM



Elizabeth Dandridge "Betsey" Wolf 1916—2005

### **Library Loses Founder After Long Fight with Illness**

"BETSEY" (1916 – 2005)

By The Rev. Dr. Robert E. H. Peeples

"The chief part of the organization of every living creature is due to inheritance," wrote Charles Darwin in 1850. Elizabeth Dandridge Wolf certainly agreed for the fabled inheritance of the colonial Virginia gentry which was hers propelled Betsey into profoundly influencing the life of you, dear reader of this encomium.

From the comfort of the modest retirement home which Dwight and Betsey built in North Forest Beach, Betsey bravely had inserted in The Island Packet in early 1983 a notice that a Hilton Head Island Genealogical Society would be organized, membership open to anyone interested. A handful of dedicated genealogists duly appeared in the then Recreation Center on Cordillo Parkway, determined to join Betsey in her undertaking. We eventually found a gathering site in the activities room of the Seabrook. our meetings frequently cut short by that institution's scheduled therapy classes.

With Betsey presiding as our first president, the Society met as a constituent member of the Hilton Head Arts Council on New Orleans Road. Friends and members contributed appropriate research books, too numerous and too heavy to move for the "workshops"

(Continued on page 3)

Hilton Head's First Lady of Genealogy is with us now only in spirit and a grand spirit she is.

Betsey Wolf was truly our "First Lady." Throughout her life she was an excellent researcher and educator helping many persons successfully search for and find evidence of their family heritage. She led the island's Women's Association special interest group for genealogical

#### Obituary Elizabeth D. Wolf

Elizabeth "Betsey" Dandridge Wolf, 89, of Hilton Head Island died Monday, Oct. 24, 2005, at her home.

Born Sept. 3, 1916, in Pittsburgh, she was the daughter of Helen Watson and Edmund Pendleton Dandridge.

In Pittsburgh she attended the Ellis School and later graduated from Hollins College in Virginia.

She was secretary to the bursar of the National Academy of Sciences in Washington during World War II.

Mrs. Wolf and her husband, Dwight, moved from Alexandria, Va., in 1979. For many years, she was a volunteer at the Children's Center and The Life Care Center of Hilton Head. She was founder and first president of the Hilton Head Genealogical Society and Chairman Emeritus of the Heritage Library.

She was preceded in death by her husband.

She is survived by two children, Catherine Dahnoun of Hilton Head Island, and Dwight S. Wolf of Schenectady, N.Y.; and two grandsons, Sean Wolf of Hilton Head and Rachid Dahnoun of Lake Tahoe, Calif.

A service at St. Luke's Episcopal Church will be announced. Interment will be private at Mount Hebron Cemetery in Winchester, Va.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Luke's Building Fund, The Children's Center or Heritage Library.

The Island Funeral Home and Crematory is in charge of arrangements.

research founding and serving as the first president of the HHI Genealogical Society. By the way it is still going strong.

After leaving office Betsey, for as long as her failing health permitted, devoted her efforts to the accumulation and preservation of the Society's collection of books and papers dealing with family history research. Her lifelong work forms a significant part of the Heritage Library's core collection along with the work of her early compatriots Stuart Gregg, and Austin Thoman.

Betsey's dream, a library for historic and family heritage research, was realized in 1997 with the founding of The Heritage Library. Betsey gave significantly of her time, talents, and treasure in the formation of the Library and the Foundation. She was one of the original three incorporators, was the first Charter Life member holding membership Number One and served as the Foundation's first President.

Upon her retirement from active leadership the Board of Directors was unanimous in electing her Chairman Emeritus.

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#### **BETSEY**

(Continued from page 2)

Betsey organized, necessitating the Society's returning to the Seabrook where space was found in a storage closet wherein our growing collection of research books was organized into a simple library for use by members between our monthly meetings.

As personal pedigrees were developed, members organized chapters of DAR in 1983 and SAR in October 1984. Through Betsey's sponsorship members were admitted to Magna Charta Dames & Barons, others into Colonial Governors or Colonial Clergy or the Huguenot Society, etc.

At Betsey's urging we became a constituent member of the South Carolina Genealogical Society. We even hosted one of its annual meetings after we fixed our home base in the fledgling Heritage Library to the care of which we contributed our ever-growing collection of genealogical books.

Once again Betsey's organizing aptitude swung into action and she became 1997-1998 Founder, First President and eventually Chairman Emeritus of the Heritage Library Foundation, Inc.



# LIBRARY RENAMES COLLECTIONS AREA IN HONOR OF FOUNDER



#### THE BETSEY WOLF MAIN COLLECTIONS ROOM

At the upcoming Annual Christmas Luncheon of the Hilton Head Island Genealogical Society, Tuesday, December 13th, the Heritage Library Foundation will recognize Betsey Wolf for her outstanding life long achievements to the advancement of the study of genealogy by designating the area of the library housing the main book collections, the rare books and the document collections as "The Betsey Wolf Main Collections Room."

The Foundation also announced the establishment of the Betsey Wolf Fund to acquire and maintain books and other historical and genealogical materials related to Betsey's home state and final resting place, Virginia.

Members and friends wishing to honor her achievements through contributions to The Betsey Wolf Fund may do so by making checks payable to The Heritage Library Foundation and designating "for the Betsey Wolf Fund." Gifts should be sent to the Foundation's regular address: 32 Office Park Road, Suite 300, Hilton Head Island, SC 29928-4640.

#### Heritage Library Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors

Officers

E. W. Altstaetter—President
G. Norma Harberger—Vice President
Ben Russell— Secretary & Treasurer
Directors

#### Term expiring 2006

Tom Hanahan G. Norma Harberger Hunter Montgomery Robert E. H. Peeples

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#### Term expiring 2008

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#### Operating Divisions

Hilton Head Island Historical Society
Historic Preservation
Fort Mitchel
Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery
Sites Identification and Marking

<u>The Heritage Library</u> History & Family Heritage Library

History & Family Heritage Library Books, Periodicals, Microfilm & CDs DSL Internet Connection

<u>Heritage Library Press</u> Specialty Book Publishing Book Repair Assistance

Heritage Library Workshops
Genealogy Classes and Workshops
History Lectures and Seminars
History By Hollywood Symposium
Robert Smalls Memorial Lectures

#### Inside this Issue

| Betsey Wolf                          | 2  |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Lowcountry History by Local Authors  | 4  |
| President's Column                   | 5  |
| Membership Desk                      | 5  |
| Feature-Lowcountry Houses of Worship | 7  |
| Coming Events                        | 9  |
| About Our Volunteers                 | 11 |



### Latest on the Collections from the HEAD LIBRARIAN — by Isobel Bitner LOW COUNTRY HISTORY BY LOCAL AUTHORS

Recently several books have been published by authors with a personal connection to the Lowcountry. They join older authors who also lived and worked in this area:

**Neil Baxley** is a Civil War buff who takes part in war reenactments in his spare time. He joined the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office after four years with the US Marines.

**Alexia Helsley** is a Beaufort native, who is well-known as a professional genealogist and archivist, recently retired from the SC Department of Archives and History.

**Stephen Howie**'s father was a minister in Bluffton in the 1950s, and was in the forefront of the Civil Rights movement.

**Fran Marscher** grew up in Bluffton, and has lived in the area most of her life. She was, for some years, editor of *The Island Packet*.

**Billie Burn** has been a Daufuskie resident since 1935, and has been postmaster and school bus driver there, as well as collector of local history.

**Edith** Inglesby was born in Savannah, and after a career in newspapers and libraries elsewhere, she moved to Beaufort County in the 1950s, to live on the May River.

**Ed McTeer** was born in Hardeeville in 1903, and was appointed Sheriff of Beaufort County in 1926, serving in that post for 37 years. His mother was a direct descendant of Thomas Heyward, South Carolina signer of the Declaration of Independence.

**Lawrence Rowland** is a well-known local historian, currently Professor of History at the University of South Carolina, Beaufort.

Details of the books follow - all are available in the Heritage Library.

# No Prouder Fate: The Story of the 11th South Carolina Volunteer Infantry. By Neil Baxley. Author House, 2005.

A useful contribution to the annals of the local involvement in the Civil War. The Regiment was formed in December 1860, and took part in several battles, including the Battle of Port Royal Sound and the Battle of Pocataglio, as well as the burning of Bluffton in 1863.

**Beaufort, South Carolina: A History**. By Alexia Jones Helsley. History Press, 2005.

This well-known archivist, genealogist and Beaufort native has written a most readable and informative history, from the time of early exploration to the present day. It is well illustrated, and touches on all aspects of the city's history - political, social and cultural. A short bibliography gives suggestions for further material.

(Continued on page 6)

# **President' Column**Bill Altstaetter

We are saddened by the loss of a dear friend and benefactor, our Chairman Emeritus, First President and Number One Charter Member.

I can add but little to the sentiments expressed on other pages of this issue except to add my deepest condolences to her family and many friends.

Betsey's vision, which was realized in The Heritage Library, has been my driving passion for the past eight years for which I owe her my heartfelt thanks. From time to time following her departure from active involvement in the management of the library, Betsey and I would talk about things. Her incites and ideas were always valuable and her enthusiasm always spirited. I will miss her very much, even though I know she'll be watching her dream from afar.

Turning to that dream, progress is going forward with the previously delayed expansion of the library's facilities. Shortly the Internet Department will be moving into newly acquired space next door, along with the computer operations center, and the publishing operations of Heritage Library Press. Membership Services will also be

Latest News from

## THE MEMBERSHIP DESK

With the Fall weather we are happy to see some of our "snow bird" members and also to welcome new members to the Heritage Library Foundation. From Pennsylvania we have Helen Witlin and from Virginia Carole Yoho. We hope to see you whenever you are in



We Need You Now!

relocating from the main desk area to the new suite area. These changes will allow for the concentration of the library's main book, map, and manuscript collections into one room for easier patron access.

With luck we will be ready with a minimum of disruption by the end of December or very shortly thereafter. the area. In addition we have a number of new members from various parts of South Carolina as well as those in the Beaufort county area. The most recent members are Ed and Sara Wells, Nancy Chesnutt, Thomas and Mrs. Barnwell, Dean Eayre, William Furlong, Daniel Huff, Doug and Jane May, Joyce Hoerner, Kathy and Terry Robbins, Verna Lee and David Hill, Rebecca Fletcher, Don Williams and a welcome back to Paul Braden.

We look forward to working with you and remember if you are a beginner or more advanced we are here to assist you in using the Library to its and your advantage. In addition to the computers we have a wealth of information in the vertical files and on the book shelves.

Made your contribution to the 2005 Annual Fund yet?

DON'T FORGET
We're on our own this year
SO WE REALLY NEED YOU!

The Heritage Library is home to <u>The Hilton Head Island Genealogical Society</u> which meets on the second Tuesday of each month from September through May of each year at 9:30 am. and to <u>The Island Writers' Network</u> which meets on the first Monday of each month except for July and August at 7 pm.

Persons interested in these organizations may reach them by contacting The Heritage Library at 843-686-6560.

#### LOW COUNTRY HISTORY BY LOCAL AUTHORS

(Continued from page 4)

**The Bluffton Charge: One Preacher's Struggle for Civil Rights.** By Stephen S. Howie. Mammoth Books, 2000.

John and Bev Howie moved to Bluffton in 1955, when he took up a position as minister of the Bluffton Methodist Church, which also included Hardeeville and Pritchardville. This is an account of their ministry in the early years of the Civil Rights Movement and efforts at desegregation in the South, causes they both strongly supported. Their attempts to enforce integration led to tension and isolation. The book has much local color, with tales of local characters and events, and provides an interesting insight into a difficult time in local history.

Remembering the Way it Was: at Hilton Head, Bluffton and Daufuskie. By Fran Marscher. History Press, 2005.

A collection of interviews made in the 1980s, and updated, with native-born or long-term residents of Beaufort County, who were born between 1881 and 1941. They reminesce about a simple way of life that has almost entirely disappeared. This is a valuable contribution to local history, by a journalist who has personal memories of those years. She records material on plantations long-gone: Pinckney, Bull, Running Deer, Pepper Hall, Honey Horn.

An Island Named Daufuskie. By Bille Burn, Reprint Company, 1991.

An exhaustive history of the island from its first inhabitants to the present day. She covers the various plantations (which came and went), also the lighthouses, cemeteries and schools on the island. There are chapters on the oyster industry, and such topics as mail and transportation. For each subject there are local memories and stories, and an appendix includes the genealogies of the early settler families - the Mongins and the Martinangeles.

A Corner of Carolina: The Four Seasons in Hilton Head, Beaufort and Bluffton. By Edith Inglesby. State Printing Company, 1968.

This book has a different approach, dividing the text into the four seasons of the year, and linking each to events and natural changes, interspersed with references to local personalities and activities. The book contains several reproductions of paintings by the celebrated local artist Jim Palmer.

Beaufort Now and Then. By James Edwin McTeer. Jemco Publishing Company, 1971, rep. 2000.

An overview of the history of Beaufort County from the Lords Proprietors to the mid 20th century. A second section of the book, entitled "The Beaufort I knew", consists of personal memories of growing up in the town, and of personalities whom the author knew.

The History of Beaufort County, South Carolina: Volume I, 1514-1861. By Lawrence S. Rowland et al. University of South Carolina Press, 1996.

A scholarly history of the County by three eminent historians, from the settling of the area, first by the Spaniards, then the English and Scots, to the beginning of the Civil War. The development of the County is explored in detail. There are chapters on the influence of cotton and rice on the economy of the area, and the importance of the slave population is given much attention. The contribution of Heritage Library Foundation members, Rev. Robert and Cora Peeples, to the writing of the book, is acknowledged in the introduction.

#### **Voices from the Past**—

"The history of every country begins in the heart of a man or a woman."

Willa Cather 1876 –1947

Views, opinions, and conclusions expressed in the feature articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the management of The Heritage Library News or the Heritage Library Foundation.

### Leature Article — Some Listoric Louses of Worship in South Carolina A Photographic Lourney Through the Lowcountry — Part One By Lyman D. Wooster

A first time visit to Old Sheldon's ruins turned out to be "act one" of a self-generated project to photograph historic churches in the Lowcountry of South Carolina.

In the process of doing so, however, it immediately became apparent that any viewer of the photos, which depict the present, would benefit from having some background information about the subject's past. What follows are historical notes and comments on each pictured house of worship.

Historic Houses of Worship are herein defined arbitrarily as those built in the 18<sup>th</sup> and first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries – antebellum United States. Lowcountry is a common term applied to a loosely delineated area in the state lying along the Atlantic Ocean's coastline; and the *some* in the title suggests that there are probably churches that have been omitted from this survey.



The ruins of Old Sheldon Church

**Old Sheldon Church**, just off US 17 and to the east and not far from Gardens Corner, fits the historic/Lowcountry category. It was first built in 1745-55, was burned by the British during the Revolutionary War and rebuilt only to be burned in 1865 by Federal troops. Old Sheldon was then left in its present condition: four roofless brick walls fronted by four large columns and having a sod floor. These remarkably attractive ruins lie among gravestones and trees in a tranquil, rural setting of several acres.

The oldest and still active church in the Lowcountry, in fact in South Carolina, is **Old St. Andrews Parish Church**. It is situated on a lovely 10 acre plot (some of which is burial grounds) that is near the Ashley River and within Charleston's city



Old St Andrews Parish Church

limits. Construction began in 1706 on St. Andrews and additions were made in 1723. The area suffered damages from Indian, Spanish, French and British wars and several hurricanes, with Hugo in 1989 being especially damaging, but the architectural integrity of the building has been well preserved. Old St. Andrews will celebrate its 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2006.

**St. James Goose Creek Episcopal Church** is another early 18<sup>th</sup> century church. It is in the woods on the outskirts of the town, on Vestry Lane, and on the banks of Goose Creek. Constructed in 1719, it is considered an architectural treasure. It is well preserved, and services are held there once a year. Because it bears the Royal

(Continued on page 8)



St James Goose Creek Episcopal Church

(Continued from page 7)

Arms of Great Britain over the chancel, British soldiers spared the church during the Revolution, but renovation was required following the earthquake of 1886. There are 27 graves in the cemetery dating back to the mid 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

A second colonial church that has but one ser-



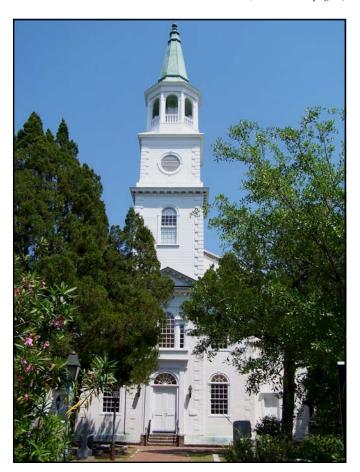
St James Santee Brick Church

vice a year – the Sunday after Easter- is the **St. James Santee Brick Church**. It now stands alone – except for a caretaker's cottage – on Old Georgetown Road (or Old Kings Highway) among pines and oaks near the Santee River and north of US 17, a section that was once a busy and prosperous community. Built in 1768 of brick imported from England as ship's ballast, the church served both French Huguenots and English settlers. It was ran-

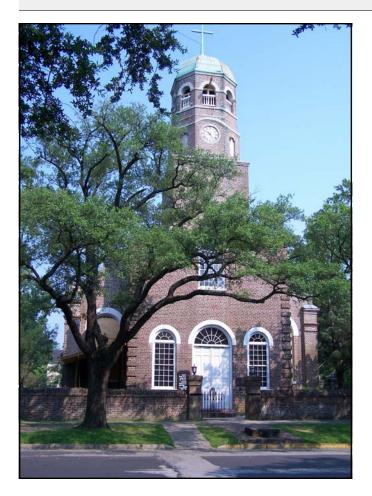
sacked by Federal troops during the Civil War to the extent that it had to be closed while repairs were made. Its four fronting columns suggest that architecturally it might be a smaller version of Old Sheldon before the latter was left in ruins.

We now turn to some colonial-era churches serving major Lowcountry urban areas rather than the rural areas that St. James Goose Creek and St. James Santee served. One is **St. Helena's Episcopal Church** in Beaufort. It was built in 1724 and enlarged in 1817 and again in 1824. It was used by the British during the Revolution as a stable and in the Civil War it was used as a hospital. Among those buried in the large and walled churchyard are two British officers, three American generals, and 17 ministers of the gospel. St. Helena's is similar in general design to the **Prince George Winyah Episcopal Church** in Georgetown built a couple of decades later.

(Continued on page 9)



St Helena's Episcopal Church



Prince George Winyah Episcopal Church

(Continued from page 8)

Services were first held in Prince George in 1747. And like St. Helena's the church building was desecrated by troops in both the Revolutionary War and the Civil War. Several additions to the original structure have been made. They include the construction of the steeple in 1824 and the installation of stained glass windows. Both St. Helena's and Prince George are churches dating from the colonial period that are still very much in

use.

A third urban and active church built in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century is **St. Michael's** in the historic district of Charleston. Episcopal services have been held there since construction was completed in 1761. President George Washington worshipped in St. Michael's in 1791. Some damage was sustained in 1865 during the Federal bombardment of the city, and services in the church were interrupted for several months following a destructive tornado in 1938. Architecturally St. Michael's follows a tradition established by Sir Christopher Wren.

To be continued



St Michaels Episcopal Church

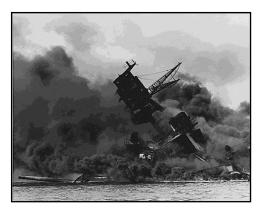
About the Author—Lyman Wooster and his wife Anne are 17-year residents of Hilton Head Island. They came here from Northern Virginia where he had been a civilian analyst of Soviet military and political affairs for Army Intelligence and the DIA. Born and raised in Western Kansas, he received his formal education at Ft. Hayes State University; at the University of Pennsylvania-where he also taught Political Science; and at the National War College. He saw service in the Army in both World War II and the Korean Conflict. On Hilton Head, he has been on the board of directors of the HHPPOA, a member of a mayor's council that developed the Community Roundtable, and an occasional contributor of commentaries to The Island Packet.

# Coming Events at the Library

#### SECOND PROGRAM IN HISTORY

### Sunday, November 27 at 2 p.m.

"History by Hollywood Series – The Silver Screen Looks Back in Time" will look at the beginnings of World War II. We will revisit the events on both sides of the Pacific Ocean leading up to the "day which will live in infamy."



Beginning at 2 p.m. Bill Altstaetter will lead an introductory discussion followed by the film which according to many authorities is the most historically accurate of Hollywood's portrayals of the attack on Pearl Harbor which launched the United States into active participation in WWII. After the movie light refreshments will be served.

This and future programs in this series sponsored by The Heritage Library Foundation are free to the general public although donations to help defray costs are appreciated.

The program is held in the Main Reading Room of the Heritage Library, Suite 300 of the Courtyard building, 32 Office Park Road just outside the Greenwood Gate to Sea Pines.

Plan to attend and bring a friend for this brief trip back in time.

For more information or to reserve a seat contact The Heritage Library at 686-6560.

Seating is limited

# Ribrary Holiday Hours

### **Chanksgiving**

Library Closed Thursday, Friday, & Saturday November 24, 25, & 26 Re-opens Monday, Nov 28

#### **Christmas**

Library Closed Friday, Saturday, & Monday December 23, 24, 26 Re-opens Thursday Dec 29

New Year's
Library Closed
Saturday & Monday
December 31 & January 2

### Yard Sale Alert! -

#### March is just around the corner!

Once again we will participate in the World's Largest Yard Sale sponsored by the Island Packet. March sounds so far away, but it will be here before we know it.

We will be collecting items beginning in January. If you have something that needs to be picked up before then call the library at 686-6560 or Gwen at 689-9558. If you can store the item(s) until closer to March we would appreciate it.

As the time gets closer we will need helpers to price and then to work on the Saturday of the event which is held in the parking lot of Hilton Head High School. This is a "fun" and rather easy way to raise money for the Library. INTER-ESTED? - Please call Gwen for more details

#### **CORRECTION FOR LAST ISSUE**

The article regarding the Philadelphia Contributionship omitted the following web site: www.contributionship.com/about.html (click on archives)

# About Our Volunteers ---

Our volunteer activity is growing! Many projects have been started and completed and we have some new volunteers who are participating in the ongoing work of the library.

We welcome Thelma Scott who has begun volunteering on Fridays and is working with John Griffin on a cemetery project.

Bob Loper has been subbing at the Library desk and working on a number of projects with Norma Harberger. Many thanks to Bob for his flexibility and dependability!

Louise Lawrence has been working on a continuing project indexing The Island Magazine which have been donated to the library by several of our patrons. Louise particularly enjoys reading the magazine since she has been on the Island for many years and it brings back many memories.

Welcome back to Dorothy Arwe who will be working on Mondays with Bob Smith on a number of projects.

Special mention goes to our newest volunteer Rebecca (Becky) Fletcher. Becky is working on the desk on Thursdays and helping with a number of projects. Thanks, Becky, for jumping right in. It's great to see a young face participating in the workings of the Foundation.

Just a reminder on Thursdays Ben Russell, Head Librarian, can give special help to those of you interested in joining the SAR. On Saturdays Dori Dixon does the same for the DAR and other heritage societies. They welcome appointments as well as drop-ins on those days.

As you can see we have projects of various interests and always need more people who can give even a few hours a month to one of these. Please examine your schedule and see if you can give some of your time. We need you all! That is how our Library can continue to grow and continue to have a high standard of service to the community.

Willing to help? Call Gwen at the Library 686-6560 or at home 689-9558 if you are ready to volunteer!

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Heritage Library News is a publication of Heritage Library Press, a division of The Heritage Library Foundation, Inc., Hilton Head Is., SC 29928-4640

#### THE HERITAGE LIBRARY

is open for research
four days each week—
Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays,
and Saturdays
Between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M.

#### THE HERITAGE LIBRARY

The Courtyard Building, Suite 300 32 Office Park Road Hilton Head Island, SC 29928-4640 Library Telephone—843-686-6560 Fax Line—843-686-6506 E-mail—webmaster@heritagelib.org Website—www.heritagelib.org

#### CAN YOU HELP US?

Several of the library volunteers have been working on the project of indexing our collection of *Islander* magazines. These magazines contain such a rich variety of island information—the history, the development and the individuals who took part in this growth—that we wanted to make all of this information more readily available to those interested in Hilton Head island.

Thanks to many of our members we have a large portion of the issues but we are missing the earliest issues until mid 1967 and from 1991 thru the last issue. In between there are scattered holes to be filled in the collection. If you have issues that you do not want any longer but hate to just throw away we will happily take them off your hands. Any that duplicate issues we have will be put on our Bookstore shelves for sale—people do buy them. And, if you happen to have a set of bound volumes that takes up too much space on your shelf we would love to have the set.

For more information contact Norma Harberger at the library, 686-6560, or at 671-4655

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