

# The Heritage Observer News from The Heritage Library Bringing the Past to L.

Bringing the Past to Life

Vol. 13, No. 3 September 2021

### ur students are back in school and the Library is busy providing educational experiences and materials to students, teachers and parents. We kicked off the school year again with Family Fun



Living history characters support field trips and classroom visits.

Day at Coastal Discovery Museum on August 10th. There were lots of opportunities for children to have fun while learning. Participating organizations, groups and authors met with families and introduced them to the many educational resources available on Hilton Head Island. This year more than 700 people attended. The Library



Students helped color Hilton Head historic figures

### **Back to School**

brought out their History Lives Here board and children colored pictures of Hilton Head's history and filled our map with bright colorful pictures of those who contributed to that history. Spanish explorers, Native Americans, Revolutionary War and Civil War soldiers, Harriet Tubman, Clara Barton, farmers, fishermen,

shrimp boats and more were all represented by the end of the day thanks to the more than 200 children who sat down to color with us. We were visited by children and



History Lives Here Coloring Project

their families from as far away as Oregon and Vienna, Austria. As always we are happy to share our local history with the world.

The Library welcomes school field trips to our sites - Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery and Ft. Mitchel. This gives students a chance to walk through a place in history while docents provide fun facts and introduce students to living history characters who tell the stories of the roles they play in Hilton Head's history. We will also bring history to local classrooms. Docents and living history characters are available to visit local classrooms and present programs based on what students are learning at the time. School classes are welcome to attend our history and ancestry classes. We



Volunteer

will continue to offer classes and author chats on Zoom making student and teacher participation easier than ever before. We enjoy working with the different school groups and our History Department is always hard at work making sure that the lessons taught are interesting and educational.

We are continuing to create QR codes at our historical sites. This project is in partnership with Hilton Head Christian Academy and Culture HHI. Students are doing the research needed to create content and using various media to make that content accessible and interesting to visitors.

The Library's website is a great resource for students, parents and teachers. A



A visitor from Vienna. Austria joined us for Family Fun Day

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### www.HeritageLib.org

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### From the Executive Director



By Barbara Catenaci Executive Director

It was a busy summer season at the Library and now it is time to get ready for fall events and programs. Crescendo – the Island's celebration of arts and culture kicks off on October 10th and will run through

November 13th. The Library will help kick off the arts and culture celebration early with tours at Zion Cemetery and Ft. Mitchel with special pricing as part of the celebration. The special-priced tour at Zion Cemetery will be October 12th, 10:30 AM and the tour at Ft. Mitchel will be October 15th at 10:30 AM. Tours on those two days will be \$5.00 per person. In addition, we will present our Ghosts & Myths program on October 21-23. Watch the website for times and ticket sales for this event and reserve your tickets early – this program sells out every year. Visit the Culture HHI website at www.culturehhi.org, get the full schedule of events, and join us as we celebrate arts and culture on Hilton Head Island

Historic Holidays on Hilton Head Island is once again on our calendars. We are looking forward to welcoming folks back to events but also adding some virtual programming as well. Our holiday celebration will kick off with a drive-through event at Mitchelville beginning December 4th. Families will be able to drive through Mitchelville Freedom Park and enjoy the lights and special programming, December 4-6, and it is great way to kick off the holiday season and Historic Holidays on Hilton Head Island. On Tuesday, December 7th, Colonial Christmas is scheduled at Zion Cemetery. This is an opportunity to learn about what the holidays were like during the colonial period with special appearances by historic characters. December 9th brings us out to Ft. Mitchel for a chance to learn about how the Civil War soldiers celebrated the holidays including readings

of letters to home and a visit from General Mitchel. Saturday, December 11th, will be a full day including a morning walking tour to historic sites including Ft. Howell, Cherry Hill School, Mitchelville, and more. We expect it will be two hours of walking and site-seeing so make sure you are prepared. In the afternoon on December 11th, several of our historic sites will host open houses. This will give you a chance to tour various sites, have your questions answered by docents and visit with living history characters. Sites included in the afternoon open house are Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery, Ft. Mitchel, Ft. Howell, Museum, Coastal Discovery Gullah Museum and Mitchelville. We are also working on video projects that will showcase sweet grass ornaments, local food and décor traditions and more ways to help bring sea island traditions into your holiday celebrations. Visit our website and Facebook page regularly to get all the news on these events.

Most of our volunteers are back in the Library and at our historic sites in full force, We welcome some new volunteers – Sheila Broadbent, Jenny O'Toole, Carolyn Robinson, Carol Clapp, and Liza and Millie Jones.

Last year at this time we were faced with limiting programming and events. Visitors and volunteers were masked up and waiting for news on when a vaccine would be available – well, what a difference a year makes. A vaccine is readily available, we are open for business and visitors and residents are out and about. We are of course being cautious and still recommend masks at indoor events. Like everyone else, we will follow the data as it is released and operate in a way that keeps everyone as safe as possible.

We are always planning new programs and events and looking forward to seeing you when you visit the Library or attend a class, program or event. Thank you for your continued support.

# **Our Good Bye to Sunni on June 30th**



Sunni Bond, Carolyn Robinson, Bailey Keeling



Iva Welton Larry Stine, Rosemary Staples



Betty Riordan, Linda Piekut, Ezra Callahan



Diane Larsen, Larry Stine, Marty Anthony



Standing - Bob Blot, Seated - Linda Piekut, Peter Cooper, Paul Anthony, Sunni Bond. Steven Strandmark. Barry Riordan

### Back To School continued...

timeline of our local history, program and class listings, research projects including The Reconstruction Era on Hilton Head and more are readily available on our website. The video stories that we are creating and posting to the website are another great educational resource. Our History Department has created and posted lesson plans that feature local and South Carolina history and meet state standards. Teachers are always welcome to reach out to us and we will do our best

to help enhance the educational experience they are bringing to their students.

Thanks to the generosity of local groups including Heritage Classic Foundation, Peeples Foundation, Bargain Box and Herb Society, as well as our community donors, we offer all this to schools at no cost. If you want to learn more about local history and bring that knowledge to any of your classrooms, please call 843.686.6560.



Field trips enhance classroom lessons

# Sharing the Heritage

### Happy Birthday Greetings to E. William "Bill" Altstaetter

It gives me great pleasure this month to wish a very happy 90th birthday to our extraordinary founder

Bill was born in Sandusky, Ohio, growing up on the south shore of Lake Erie. He served in the, United States Army (infantry) from 1949-1951. He received a BA in Business Administration from Ohio

State University. Gwen. his wife, graduated from Miami University, also in Ohio. Bill joined American Industries, now Rockwell Industries International.

Bill and Gwen were married in 1953. They have two children, Lisa and Mark, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. They all live on Hilton Head except Lisa who lives in Hawaii.

In the mid 70's the family vacationed on the "haven" of Hilton Head Island. When Bill was ready to "throw away his ties," they bought property here to make Hilton Head their home. Bill had a dream, a very determined goal — to establish a noted Genealogy and History Library on Hilton Head Island.

There were three main characters responsible for creating the Island Genealogy Society. Bill, a devoted historian, an avid collector of world history books, and the researcher of his family's genealogy; Betsey Wolf, who had a lifelong dream of a Hilton Head genealogy library and was known on Hilton Head as Miss Genealogy; and Randy Holcomb, a retiree from up north who had been a computer salesman for IBM.

When the expected space at the public library failed to materialize, Randy urged members, then a chapter of the national society, to form a library of their own as a separate foundation. The Heritage Library Foundation was created in 1997. Betsey was named president and Bill and Randy vice presidents.

The first formal Library opened in July 1997 in the Courtyard Building where there were no windows but a kitchen and, finally, room for Betsey's Genealogical books and Bill's collection of



**By Iva Roberts Welton** *Board Member* 

history and rare books. They had one computer with a library computer program purchased from Library World, about 1,500 books, and 23 founding members. Randy started cataloguing the collection. Annual Christmas galas, fund raisers, silent auctions, wine tastings and lots of serious lectures were held in this space.

Bill became president of the Heritage Library Foundation in 2003 and served until 2008. He met Dr. Peeples, founder of the Hilton Head Historical Society and president since 1961. A great two years of discussions between Bill and Dr. Peeples led to forming one entity to further the study of history in all its forms. In 2005 the



Bill and Gwen Altstaetter

Historical Society became part of the Heritage Library Foundation. They brought with them books, a bank account, responsibility for Ft. Mitchel and Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery and 60 members who became Life Members of the Heritage Library Foundation.

We are not sure of the exact date, but when Bill heard me speak on the history of the Kirk family and the Rose Hill

gothic revival plantation house, he said to me, "I need to have you at the Heritage Library as Community Relations Director." The rest of the story is history. I was there to greet people every day and look after whatever needed to be done. I was responsible for arranging for Beaufort County history gurus to join me for a night of lectures. Our first Heritage Weekend was held at Honey Horn. In 2011 I set up a tent at the Farmer's Market at Honey Horn each week to promote the Library. I was there for two years and we brought in new members, donations of books and great relationships for Heritage Library. We raised funds for the Library at a Polo march held in May 2013 where everyone enjoyed a good time –a like event will probably not be seen here again.

In 2011 Bill pointed out to the Heritage Library Foundation Board that 2013 had two significant dates: the 350th anniversary of Captain William Hilton's sighting and naming of Hilton Head and the 30th anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Hilton Head Island. The 350-30 Celebration was created. It was held from September 30 to October 5 with the Town of Hilton Head Island and most of the town's organizations participating. Heritage Library received the Organization of the Year award for the Celebration. It was Bill's historical knowledge that was the inspiration for the celebration.

Gwen acted as Bill's private secretary and was Membership Chairman from January 2002 to January 2013. She volunteered at VIM (Volunteers in Medicine) for seventeen years in the Professional Records Department for Credentials.

Bill is very proud of his granddaughter, Tory, who has two new restaurants, Al's Aloha Kitchen and Nood, in the Coligny area.

Bill is currently a member of our Board of Advisors and available to answer questions and provide historical information. Water-related activities compete with tennis, painting with classical music in the background, writing and reading fill Bill's days.

Happy Birthday, Bill. We love you and are so grateful to you for your dream.

# Heritage Volunteers Steven D. Strandmark

unni Bond's moving from the lowcountry meant that the Library had a Volunteer Genealogist vacancy to fill. Steven "Steve" Strandmark was quick to offer to fill the vacancy. So, in addition to the day he was already volunteering to assist patrons with their ancestral research, Steve now works as a volunteer genealogist two days each week, Mondays and Wednesdays.

Steve was born in Minneapolis and grew up in Windom, Minnesota. He was a history major at Carleton College receiving a BA. His master's in English History was earned at the University of Minnesota.

Nancy Boyer and Steve met when they were both students at Carleton and were married in 1973. Nancy died in 2016. Steve has three children: Katherine is an English teacher in Indiana, Emily an elementary school counselor in Minnesota, and Matthew an educational archivist at the University of Kentucky.

With his life-long curiosity about the human past, Steve became interested in his and Nancy's family histories. He developed a combined family tree on Ancestry which consists of about 40,000 individuals: not all have been exhaus-



tively researched. Nancy's heritage goes back to Puritan New England and the Mayflower (John Alden). Her side of the tree includes Emily Dickinson, Winston Churchill, several Revolutionary War patriots, and the founder of the Simmons mattress company. Steve's side of the tree goes back to 17th century Sweden and Norway on his father's side. On his mother's side, early 19th century German and Pomeranian family members who immigrated to the USA in mid to late 19th century.

Steve worked for the Social Security Administration for 35 years with assignments in Minnesota, Illinois and Indiana. When Steve retired he decided

to move to Hilton Head. His family had enjoyed many vacations here and the Heritage Library with its genealogical work was a big factor in his decision to move to the Island in April 2018.

Steve immediately became a Heritage volunteer. He enjoys problem solving and detective work so he was delighted to work on the Library's Reconstruction Era project, researching land transfers during that period. Now, he enjoys the detective work involved in helping patrons, scheduled and walk-ins, research their family histories

Steve enjoys reading "who dunits", especially Scandinavian crime fiction and doing crossword puzzles (the harder the better). He participates in the Trivia contests held at the Country Club of Hilton Head twice a month. He is a member of WOW (Widows or Widowers). The pandemic interfered with their weekly dinner meetings at a rotating schedule of local restaurants. Hopefully this will start again soon. Steve plays golf and enjoys eating out.

Steve finds his work as a Volunteer Genealogist both interesting and informative. He says, "I learn more about my genealogical craft as I help others, so I consider it of benefit to both me and the patron."

Many interesting, informative and surprising things have taken place since Heritage Library Foundation was created. For an interesting read, go to previous Observers on our website.

www.HeritageLib.org

### ZION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DONORS

The Heritage Library has created this capital campaign to preserve the Baynard Mausoleum and create the Zion Chapel of Ease History Park. The following donors are helping to achieve these goals. If you wish to make a contribution, send your check marked "Zion Fund" to Community Foundation of the Lowcountry, Post Office Box 23019, Hilton Head Island, SC 29925.

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# Explore Your Heritage

# **Genealogical And History Partners**

nyone who has spent any time with me over the past ten years knows that I am a member of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution. In fact, I have served as Registrar of two of the three chapters located in Beaufort County (Emily Geiger Chapter, Bluffton, and Captain William Hilton Chapter, Hilton Head Island). I have also assisted the Registrar of the local chapter (Dr. George Mosse Chapter) of the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution. As my business card reads. I am "committed to connecting you to your ancestors" and one of the best ways for me to do this is to ascertain as quickly as possible if you have a Revolutionary War patriot.

Any researcher, amateur or professional, can access the transcription of an approved NSDAR application. NSSAR will accept record copies of such applications as partial proof of lineage and/or service, and obviously one can cite specific approved NSDAR applications for a DAR application. These record copies can be purchased online for \$10 if one only wants a copy of the application itself; for an additional \$20 copies of

all documentation can also be obtained.

Heritage Library volunteer staff has several researchers who know how to use this database in order to help a patron ascertain if a Revolutionary War patriot is included in the lineage being researched. Sometimes several lines must be explored in order to come to a final conclusion.

The two chapters located in this area have been great contributors in several ways to the Heritage Library. Through the ten years I've been associated with the Library, a number of the volunteers have been members of either NSDAR or NSSAR. Other than myself, these include Veda Keeling, Kirk Clarke, Marty Anthony, Nancy Burke, Marie Danforth, Susan Dobbs, Diana Luellen, Pre' Moore, Suzanne Mover, Jennie O'Toole, Dee Phillips, Linda Piekut, Carolyn Robinson, Diane Sanders, Sarah Takacs, Art Ryan, Bailey Keeling, Larry Burke (deceased), Rich Thomas, David Sanders, James MacLeod, Nathaniel Jones, and Jim Robinson. While some of these individu-



**By Sunni Bond**Contributor

als are no longer volunteering at the Library, their contributions have helped the Library to grow in many ways. Jack Gatlin is too young at this point in time to be a member of NSSAR, but he is a member of Children of the American Revolution as are Liza and Millie Jones. Jack is one of the actors to be seen in programs

at Zion Chapel of Ease while Liza and Millie perform at Ft. Mitchel. Jack's mother and grandmother are members of Captain William Hilton Chapter NSDAR as is Liza and Millie's mother. Donations of genealogical books as well as monetary contributions from each chapter have been vital to the Library's mission. The Captain William Chapter NSDAR presented The Heritage Library Foundation with the NSDAR Community Service Award in 2018. Certain research projects done originally for NSDAR have added material to the shelves of the Library.

NSDAR, NSSAR, and The Heritage Library Foundation are certainly "genealogical and history partners" in the broadest definition of community service.

# History Department

# Summer Rain Doesn't Stop the History Department









**By Richard Thomas and Dee Phillips** *History Dept. Co-Chairs* 





# Hilton Head Churches

### Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church

Established 1914

t. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church has its roots in Hilton Head's first African American church that was established in Mitchelville in 1862, First African Baptist.

Desiring to establish a church in the Pope community several members of First African

Baptist Church, under the leadership of Rev. B. W. Williams, left to organize a new congregation in 1914: Mt. Calvary Baptist Church. A small parcel of land on Squire Pope Road was donated by the Miller family and the first church building, a wooden structure, was constructed.

Rev. Williams lead the church until his death in 1939.

The following year, 1940, a storm destroyed the church building but the congregation stuck together and built a new building on the same site.

Several pastors served for short periods after the death of Rev. Williams until Rev. J. C.



**By Richard Chalk**Volunteer

Simmons assumed the pastorate in 1948. Rev. Simmons served the church for 26 years. During his ministry the congregation grew to more than 100 members and Sunday School, choirs, Men's and Women's Fellowship and other auxiliary services were added.

When Rev. Simmons resigned due to illness in 1974, the church

chose Rev. Benjamin Williams to lead the congregation. Rev. Williams was installed as full-time pastor in 1975 and served for almost 42 years until his death in 2016.

Under Rev. Williams Mt. Calvary began holding services on a regular weekly basis (Prior to his tenure services had been held on alternating weeks) and the church and her ministries expanded to meet the needs of the growing congregation.

While more land was purchased and additions and renovations to the buildings had been done over the years, a long awaited major construction project was announced in 2021. The dream of a new sanctuary had

been fostered by Rev. Ben Williams since the 1990's but it wasn't until after his death that formal planning for a new sanctuary was begun.

A building that will seat 300 plus 44 in the choir loft will soon replace the current 135 seat sanctuary that will then be converted into the Ben Williams Fellowship Hall.

"One of the most vibrant spiritual traditions that Mt. Calvary continues to practice is River Baptisms, held on the shores of Skull Creek, near Hudson's Seafood House on the Dock restaurant. After proclaiming a belief in Jesus Christ, new church members don white baptismal robes and are escorted to Skull Creek, where they are baptized before other witnessing members, friends and family." Copied from Our History - (mountcalvarymbc.com)

Following Rev. Williams death the church installed their current pastor, Rev. Dr. Deonia Simmons, in November 1917.

To learn more about Mt. Calvary visit their web site: mountcalvarymbc.com

### **Using South Carolina Periodicals for Research**

enealogists typically search vital records, online networks and books for family information, but often overlook genealogical periodicals, a major source of family data. Periodicals are rich collections of genealogical information, including scholarly articles, pedigrees, marriage and birth records, military

service records, wills and deeds, cemetery records and Bible records. The Heritage Library contains a number of such periodicals for South Carolina.

The oldest of South Carolina periodicals is the *South Carolina Historical Magazine*, considered "the journal of record for



By Nancy Burke Contributor

South Carolina history." Published quarterly since 1900 by the South Carolina Historical Society, it offers articles by scholars on local history and people as well as "research notes, edited primary documents and archival updates." There are indexes in each volume as well as cumulative indexes.

The South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research, published quarterly since 1973, is currently produced by Brent H. Holcomb, and contains a wide range of genealogical data, including birth, death and marriage records, wills, royal patents and records of military service, to list only

a few. The magazine is indexed.

The *Transactions of the Huguenot Society of South Carolina* is a more specialized journal established by the Huguenot Society in Charleston in 1885 "to maintain genealogical records of the immigrants to this country and their descendants." Those with Huguenot ancestors will find this of great interest. Each volume is indexed.

The Library catalog lists each periodical with the issues held. While the Library holds most issues of these sets of periodicals, some issues are missing. Please check with the catalog to determine if you have a missing issue. Donations of missing issues would be gratefully received.

### **Important Change in Ancestry's Policy**

n August 3, 2021, Ancestry quietly announced a major change to its terms of service and privacy policy effective immediately for material added after August 3rd but with a 30 day grace period for information posted prior to August 3rd. If you have a free tree on Ancestry.com, sync a Family Tree Maker Tree (FTM) to Ancestry, use Find a Grave, or any other Ancestry product, excluding their DNA testing program, you need to be aware of how this change affects you.

Here is the important info:

....by submitting User Provided Content through any of the Services, you grant Ancestry a perpetual, sublicensable, worldwide, non-revocable, royalty-free license to host, store, copy, publish, distribute, provide access to, create derivative works of, and otherwise use such User Provided Content to the extent and in the form or context we deem appropriate on or through any media or mediums and with any technology or devices now known or hereafter developed or discovered. This includes the right for Ancestry to copy, display, and index your User Provided Content. Ancestry will own the indexes it creates.

However, five days later, probably prompted by a multitude of complaints, Ancestry added two sentences.

Notwithstanding the non-revocable and perpetual nature of this license, it terminates when your User Provided Content is deleted from our systems. Be aware that to the extent you elected to make your User Provided Content public and other users copied or saved it to the Services, this license continues until the content has been deleted both by you and the other users. https://www.ancestry.com/cs/legal/termsandconditions

What does this mean? Experts in legal

genealogy indicate that it means any photos, stories you wrote, pieces of family history you have shared on any Ancestry owned platform is now theirs to use as they please. While you remain the owner, you cannot stop them from using your work product or images as

they see fit. Those who understand these legalities explain that what you are doing is keeping your copyright to your own materials but agreeing to a contract with Ancestry that allows them to use everything, in any way they want. The added lines say you can change your mind and delete content. However, if you delete something you shared publicly, Ancestry can continue to use it as it sees fit until everyone who copied or saved the information on Ancestry also deletes it. This is highly unlikely to happen, in my opinion.

While I am not a lawyer, my personal view is that this new policy reiterates why you should **not** be depending just on free ancestry trees but should be using a genealogy software on your computer, like Family Tree Maker. Remember, even when you make a Family Tree Maker tree private it will be under the new policy if you sync it with Ancestry. What should you do? I suggest reading about this from an expert. Here are links to articles from a trusted legal genealogist.

Judy G. Russell: One Big Change at Ancestry The Legal Genealogist - https://www.legalgenealogist.com/2021/08/04/one-big-change-at-ancestry/ and https://www.legalgenealogist.com/2021/08/06/ancestry-retreats/

Everyone needs to make his/her own decision. Just be aware, that if you leave images, stories etc. on these sites you



By Carol Clemens Volunteer

have agreed that Ancestry is entitled to use anything and everything forever, however it wants. This includes uploaded and copied pictures, stories, audios, videos, and any information that you typed in. If this is acceptable to you, no action needs to be taken. If not, you may need

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to consider removing images, deleting trees on Ancestry, or unsync Family Tree Maker trees. If you use Family Tree Maker software, consider not syncing your trees and remove them from the Ancestry site. If you need to delete a tree on Ancestry, first be certain your FTM tree is backed up to an external source. In the FTM program, go to the top right FTM logo where you normally click to sync. Right click and select unlink tree. Your FTM tree will remain on your computer, but you will not be able to sync it or get hints from Ancestry. Neither of these should make a difference in how you research, enter data, or backup your FTM trees. If you change your mind, you can always upload it and restart sync. If you only have a free tree on Ancestry and do not use Family Tree Software, you lose everything if you delete your tree.

At this point, it seems unclear how these changes apply to individual images marked as private, but the consensus is that marking things private makes no difference. My best advice is to remove any images or data now that you do not want to allow Ancestry to use as they wish. A good option is to consider unsyncing your trees as I have done. I also suggest that you read more about this topic over the next few weeks. If Ancestry sends you another "update" to their policy read it carefully and decide what is best for you and your genealogy.

# Heritage Library Membership



By Laurette
Doscher-Benfante
Membership Chair

Welcome to 10 New and 37 Renewal Members who have joined our Heritage Library Family.

### **NEW MEMBERS**

### **South Carolina**

### Bluffton

Bill Beltz

### Hilton Head Island

Barbara Conway
Janis Schlossberg Gatschet
Diane Heath
David Helms
Patricia and Charles Honse
Diane and Randy Larsen
Kim and David Winnett
Wanda Wood-Knox

### **Out of State**

Jeanette Reed, Jamaica NY

### **RENEWAL MEMBERS**

### **South Carolina**

#### Beaufort

John Sova and Ursula Mercier

#### Blufftor

Sandy and John Gibson Gelndon and Palmer Jones Joanne Miller Linda Pearcy Carolyn Phillips Cassie and Michael Sanders Krista Taracuk

#### Columbia

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Charlotte Willis

### Hilton Head Island

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