

The Heritage Observer

News from The Heritage Library

Bringing the Past to Life

Vol. 9, No. 1 **January 2017**

Heritage Library is 20 Years Old

wenty years ago the founders of Heritage Library Foundation, believing that "a people who forget their history have no future," set about to preserve "Our History." They wanted to have an organization capable of providing educational programs for individuals and groups interested in history and genealogy and they wanted to provide a place where people could study, with access to research materials. In other words, a library. The Heritage Library.

In July 1997 a not-for-profit foundation was created. Article 1 of the Bylaws states, "The Heritage Library Foundation... organized to promote the study of history and genealogy, to support, organize, and maintain a private historical and genealogical library..." Within a month of the Foundation's creation, the Heritage Library opened its door to the public in a 9'x12' windowless office on the third floor of the Courtyard Building with about 1,500 books, one computer and 23 founding members.

In May 2000 the Library received certification as an "authorized branch library" of the Family History Library approved by the Family History Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Salt Lake City in Utah. This honor allows Heritage Library members to participate in its worldwide microfilm lending program.

In 2005 the Hilton Head Island Historical Society became part of the Heritage Library Foundation. They brought with them books, a bank account, responsibility for Fort Mitchel (below, left) and Zion Cemetery (below, right), and 60 members who became life members of the Foundation.

[20 YEARS cont'd on Page 4]





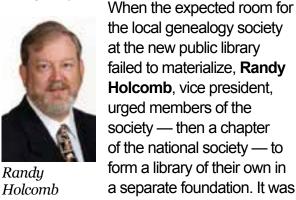
Our Founders



Betsey Wolf

When the Heritage Library Foundation came into being in 1997 there were three incorporators.

Betsey Wolf was president. She was known as Miss Genealogy throughout the island.

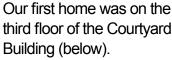


Holcomb



E.A. "Bill" Altstaetter

the local genealogy society at the new public library failed to materialize, Randy Holcomb, vice president, urged members of the society — then a chapter of the national society — to form a library of their own in a separate foundation. It was easier to do that than to go through the national group. E. A. "Bill' Altstaetter, vice president, has continued to serve in many capacities, currently on the Board of Advisors.





Officers:

Executive Director: Linda T. Piekut President: Lou Benfante Vice President: Ezra Callahan Secretary: Allison Diercks Treasurer: Peter Cooper

Board of Directors:

Class of 2017

Peter Cooper Luana Graves Sellars James Y. Robinson Iva Welton

Class of 2018

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In 2016 the Heritage Library...

... was one of the hosts of the National Underground Railroad Conference held in June at the Westin on Hilton Head Island. Heritage Library was named a facility on the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom in 2015. The purpose of this program, part of the National Park Service, is to recognize the importance of the Underground Railroad and to coordinate activities to commemorate, honor, and interpret its history. Two of the Library's Board Members took part in the opening morning session of the conference, *Mitchelville Then and Now.* Lou Benfante's subject was "Identifying the Residents of Mitchelville and the members of the 21st USCT" and Ezra Callahan spoke about "The People of Mitchelville and Native Islander Roots Projects."



... was pleased to receive several gifts which enabled the Library to complete the Learning Center at Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery. The VanLandingham Rotary



Club was responsible for providing electricity at the site, The Bargain Box of Hilton Head made the speaker's platform a reality, Mike Jukofsky installed a paver pathway from the gate to the mausoleum, and Eagle Scout Jacob Palchak built eight benches and a lectern. Jacob installed the benches, set in concrete, and the lectern which is portable. The Library planned to inaugurate the Learning Center at its "Ghosts and Myths of Hil-

ton Head Island" program planned for October but Hurricane Matthew cancelled that idea. The Library will hold an inauguration of the Learning Center in 2017.

... is so very thankful for the residents, visitors and community organizations who have helped us clean up Matthew's mess at our two locations, Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery and Ft. Mitchel. We had an angel (we don't know who) at Ft. Mitchel who removed some of the large trees from the property before we could even get organized. Our first official work party, members of the Junior Leadership Class, the



VanLandingham Rotary Club, and our own Board tackled some big fallen logs and a ton of debris at Ft. Mitchel and made significant headway. The ReachGlobal Crisis Response Team, in partnership with Hilton Head Presbyterian Church, worked on clearing out several dead trees and hanging branches in December. When they finished we still had some very high branches to remove before can open Ft. Mitchel. The same Junior Leadership Class, VanLandingham Rotary Club, and Board members, along with residents and visitors, young and old, worked a full day at Zion Cemetery and cleaned almost the entire site. The following Saturday, a large group of members of the Church of Later Day Saints from Aiken, SC completed the job there. The Town of Hilton Head Island was very helpful in removing trees from their property which were hanging over the cemetery's entrance. The Library is back in business at Zion and tours will resume in March. We are lucky to have such a generous and thoughtful community. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

JANUARY 2017 THE HERITAGE OBSERVER 3

Autosomal DNA

utosomal DNA tests your 22 pairs of chromosomes, provides you with an estimate of your ethic origins, and connects you with cousins who share DNA segments with you. Your goal is to identify the most recent



By Jan Alpert, Volunteer

common ancestor with whom you share each match. There are several autosomal DNA providers and all offer sales two or three times a year.

By the end of June 2016, more than 2 million people had tested their autosomal DNA with Ancestry (www. ancestrydna.com) increasing the likelihood that you will find previously unknown cousins. The current cost of an Ancestry DNA test is \$99.00 plus tax

and shipping. Ancestry requires you to fill a vile with your saliva. If you have a tree on Ancestry and are an Ancestry subscriber, I suggest you test with Ancestry. Ancestry prioritizes your fourth cousin and closer matches and offers several tools that are built around family trees.

- 1. "Shared Ancestry Hints" are your matches with others who also have a tree on Ancestry and appear to share a common ancestor with you. Each match is only as accurate as the research and trees of you and your match.
- 2. You can search all your matches for specific surnames. You can also search by geographic area such as a county and state, much the same way you use the normal Ancestry search engine.
- 3. If the person you match has a tree on Ancestry, you can view their tree and all their surnames. Ancestry will empha-

size any surnames you have in common. You can also check "Shared Matches" to see others who also match the same person. If you don't recognize any surnames, Ancestry also provides a mapping tool so you can see if you have ancestors who lived in the same community.

- 4. About half of all matches on Ancestry do not have trees on Ancestry that their matches can view. However, if you match someone without a tree and you use the "Shared Matches" tool, you may find another individual you both match who has a tree.
- 5. You are not provided with email addresses of your matches, but you can send them a message on Ancestry.
- **6.** If you match three or more people at the same location on the same chromosome, Ancestry will create a "Circle" which is called triangulation. Members of your Circle can all work together to research your shared line further back, sometimes breaking through a brick wall.

If you do not have a tree on Ancestry, you will not be able to identify many matches. If you are worried about privacy, you can put "private" rather than the name of a living individual. You can also limit your tree to five to six generations.

Another provider of DNA testing is FamilyTreeDNA (www.familytreedna.com), FamilyTreeDNA provides Y, X (MtDNA), and autosomal testing and they provide bundled discounts if you order more than one test. Autosomal DNA is usually \$79 plus tax and shipping. The test consists of swabbing the inside of your mouth for a minute. FTDNA is a DNA testing company only, so there is no annual subscription fee.

[**DNA TEST** cont'd on Page 6]

History Department

the year 2016 wound down, the History Department took a break until the end of January, when the Tuesday presentations will begin the 2017 schedule. (Please see Heritage Happenings on Page 4.) We spent the downtime from Thanksgiving to 2017 reflecting on what has been successful and looking

at what we can improve in 2017.



By Dee Phillips History Co-Chair new programs, and all of those were well-received. Our Ft. Mitchel tour attendance increased by 15% over the same time period as 2015, and Zion tours had

2016 continued to build

on our successes, with his-

tory programs up 19% over

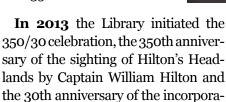
2015. We added several

similar numbers. Unfortunately, Hurricane Matthew forced us to stop the tours earlier than expected.

As always, the History Department continues to add new presentations and new opportunities in the community to spread the word about the Heritage Library. We welcome all volunteers who are interested in continuing these efforts; interested in presenting at Zion, Ft. Mitchel, or the Library on Tuesdays. As co-chairs of the History Department, Lou Benfante and I, Dee Phillips, would like to thank all of our wonderful volun-

[20 YEARS cont'd]

In 2009 the Library moved to its present midisland location, 852 William Hilton Parkway, Suite 2A, where they have a meeting room, and administrative offices in addition to typical library space. Currently the Library contains 6,000 books, 842 CDs, 185 maps, 322 rolls of microfilm, vertical and surname files, and special collections. Expert volunteers are available to assist patrons. The Library has grown to over 350 members.



tion of the Town of Hilton Head. The six-day event with four sponsors and most local organizations participating was a roaring



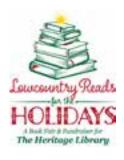
success with an estimated attendance of 5,000 people. That year the Hilton Head-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce gave the Library its Organization of the Year award in recognition of the Library's creation and implementation of 350/30. The success of this event has resulted in an annual History Day with the Coastal Discovery Museum and the Island's Historic Sites as partners with the Heritage Library.

In 2015 the Library launched a capital campaign to obtain the funds necessary to restore the mausoleum in Zion Cemetery and create an outdoor learning center. The campaign has reached \$125,000 and the Learning Center has been built. Please see Page 2. After Matthew debris has been removed, the Library will resume work on the campaign's agenda.



In 2015 the Library held its first annual Book Fair, "Lowcountry Reads for the Holidays" with Pat Conroy as head-

liner. The second annual fair was held in November 2016 with over 40 authors participating. Four programs were added: A Meet and Greet recep-



tion with the lead author, Mary Kay Andrews; Writers' Workshops; a free Children's Corner, with free ice cream for each child who attended a reading by a participating author of a children's book; and free book talks scheduled throughout the day. These added another dimension making the event more of a traditional book fair.

The Library has achieved the Founders' goals. It is holding lectures and classes, writing lesson plans for area teachers, collaborating with other organizations on various projects, and offering a wealth of research materials available to both members and visitors. Twenty years of creative vision and many willing volunteers have achieved great results.

Happy Birthday!

Bill Altstaetter and Elizabeth Hanson contributed to this article.

Heritage Happenings

Reservations Required
Phone 843-686-6550 or online at
www.HeritageLib.org

ANCESTRY CLASSES

Wednesdays at the Library, 1:30pm \$10 members, \$15 non-members

Jan 18 & 25 – Starting Family Research, two-session class; \$25 for members, \$35 for non-members

Feb 1 - Researching Irish Ancestry

Feb 8 – Family Tree Maker is Back So Get With the Program

Feb 15 – Create a "Pieces of Your Past" booklet using Microsoft Word

Feb 22 – Researching African-American Ancestry

Mar 1 – Autosomal DNA – Make the Most of Your Results

Mar 8 – Tips and Tricks for Family Tree Maker

Mar 15 – Looking for German Ancestry? Research Techniques and Sources

HISTORY LECTURES

Tuesdays at the Library, 10:30am \$10 per person

Jan 24 - Historic Sites

Jan 31 - Pirates of the Lowcountry

Feb 7 – Mitchelville

Feb 14 – Gullah Culture

Feb 21 – Early Explorers

Feb 28 – Cemeteries of HHI

Mar 7 - Battle of Fort Pulaski

Mar 14 - Santa Elena

Mar 21 – Pedro Menendez, "The Last Crusader"

Mar 28 – Role of Women in the History and Development of HHI

TOURS

Hurricane Matthew's damage was extensive in the tour areas. Hopefully, tours of Ft. Mitchel, the Zion Cemetery and our Bike Tours will resume soon.

Please check with the Library, heritagelib.org.

ZION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DONORS

he Heritage Library has launched this capital campaign to preserve the Baynard Mausoleum and create an outdoor learning center where programs for adults and children will be held. 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.



\$20,000+ Patriots

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smith

\$10,000 - \$19,999 Preservationists

Dori M. Dixon
Carol and Ward Mathis

\$5,000 - \$9,999 Founders

Dr. George Mosse Chapter NSSAR
National Park Service / South Carolina Department of
Archives and History
Pam and David Schofield
VanLandingham Rotary Club
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Webb

\$1,000-\$4,999 Historians

Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. (Bill) Altstaetter The Bargain Box of Hilton Head Island Lou Benfante and Laurette Doscher Dr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Burke Pam and Peter Cooper Lisa and Don Drakeman Hargray Communications
The Heritage Library
Gretchen and Thomas D. Johns
Annie and Kelly Kellenberger
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lennox
MAJ Enterprises

Col. Dana Marsh Tom and Peggy Martin Linda and David Piekut Carolyn and James Robinson Mr. and Mrs. Richard Thomas

\$500 - \$999 Builders

Paul and Martha Anthony
The Baer Family
Maggie and Larry Burke
Ezra and Audrey Callahan
Mary Ann and Atlee Compher
Allison Diercks

Dodi and Harry Eschenbach Selena Evans Honor Our Heroes Foundation Low Country Questers The Lowrey Family Mayor and Mrs. Tom Peeples National Society Sons & Daughters of the Pilgrims SC Branch Gail and Hugh O'Kane RMC Resort Management The Stokes Family Takacs Family

\$25 - \$499 Militiamen

Mr. James Edward Alexander
Anonymous
Susan and Ivan Bennett
Barbara Borg
Mr. James Bradshaw
Teena and Charles Davant, III
Ms. Phyllis Driscoll
Griffin Family Fund
Elizabeth R. Hanson
Mr. and Mrs. David Hudak
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Ms. Marilyn Johnston
Mr. James Davant Latham

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Maggi Madeleine McGee Margaret McManus Mr. and Mrs. David McMillan Sansing and Terry McPherson Dr. J. Brent Morris Mr. and Mrs. George Paletta Mr. and Mrs. Richard Patrick Ken and Carole Pfeifle Mr. and Mrs. David Ralff Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Russell Ms. Anita Sherr-Gyllenhoff Debra Sherrill Andrea and Bruce Siebold
Kathryn Stewart
Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Stone
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sullivan
Dr. Sandy Termatto
Grace and William Tiernay
Gail Wargo
Iva Roberts Welton
Barbara Wiles
William Hilton Chapter, NSDAR
Womens Club of Sea Pines
Chuck Yahres

Sharing the Heritage

he Heritage Library is pleased to announce that the South Carolina Department of Archives and History State Historic Preservation Office approved the Chapel of Ease Cemetery and Baynard Mausoleum for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination has been

submitted to the National Register of Historic Places at the National Park Service in Washington, DC, for final consideration and designation.

Over two years ago, Iva Roberts Welton, Heritage Library Board and Life Member, assisted by Heritage Library President, Lou Benfante, began researching the project and recently made the presentation to the preservation office in Columbia SC.

The Heritage Library owns the 2.43 acre site on the William Hilton Parkway at Matthews Drive. The Hilton Head Historical Society, founded in 1961 by Dr. Robert Peeples, merged with the Heritage Library in 2005 and at that time the Library became the owner of the Zion Chapel of Ease cemetery.

The Zion Chapel of Ease church was completed in 1788 under the direction



By Iva Roberts Welton

of Captain Jack Stoney and Issac Fripp. It was a wooden structure on a brick foundation, approximately 30'x40'. It served as the planters' church. The first permanent minister was the Reverend Philip Matthews in the 1820's. After his death in 1828, the church fell out of use; it was re-consecrated

in 1833 by the Rev. Nathaniel Bowen. In 1834, a silver communion service was ordered from Barnard Brothers of London. It is still in use today on Hilton Head at St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Pope Avenue. It is a fascinating story – as is the entire history that this site can tell us. After the Civil War, the church was dismantled and disappeared.

Prior to the Civil War the Island featured 24 plantations that were growing the finest Sea Island cotton which was shipped to England for making clothing for the elite. This brought great wealth to the planters on the Island.

The Baynard Mausoleum was built in 1846. The Classical Revival style 20-chamber mausoleum features the raised letters above the entrance, "Wm. E. Baynard — Integrity and Uprightness." Originally the doors to the mausoleum were made of heavy wood with an inner door of white marble. It is said that the vault was burst open by Yankee soldiers who were looking for valuables. This is the oldest structure on Hilton Head and is in dire need of restoration. Lack of funds, vandalism, and weather over these many years have left the entire cemetery in need of restoration. The beautiful iron work around the Kirk family plot and the Baynard mausoleum needs to be restored or replaced.

Today the live oaks watch over the ancestors of the Davant, Kirk, Webb, Stoney, Barksdale, Baldwin, Irvine, Chaplin, Fripp, and Baynard families, among the wealthiest in South Carolina; the cemetery the burial place of many prominent early Hilton Head families.

I believe that we have a responsibility to residents and visitors — to future generations — to restore and preserve the original beauty and history that exists here on the headwaters of Broad Creek. A capital campaign is underway by the Heritage Library to do just that. If you wish to help, send a check marked "Zion Fund" to Community Foundation of the Lowcountry, Post Office Box 23019, Hilton Head Island, SC 29925. If you would like more cemetery history information, contact ivasouth@aol.com.

[DNA TEST cont'd]

- 1. Not only does FTDNA have tools similar to Ancestry such as the surname search, but they also provide a chromosome browser, so you can see on which chromosome you share DNA with each match.
- 2. You can download a spreadsheet which summarizes all your matches including email addresses.
- **3.** If you have first cousins who are willing to test, I recommend you test on FamilyTreeDNA and test one first cousin on your mother's line and one first cousin on your father's line. If you load a tree and link your first cousin's DNA results on your tree, FTDNA can separate your matches into your paternal and your maternal lines.
 - 4. Many of your matches may not have

a tree, but they can list surnames and geographic areas where their ancestors lived.

5. The more serious genealogists prefer FTDNA because you are provided with more information about each match. However, to identify your most recent common ancestor you have to use the tools to analyze the data.

23andme (www.23andme.com) also provides autosomal DNA for \$99 together with health and wellness reports for \$199. However, 23andme has a medical research focus rather than family history, so most genealogists prefer the other DNA testing companies.

On March 1, Jan Alpert will teach another DNA class "Discover More From Your Autosomal DNA Results." If you have tested your autosomal DNA, call the Heritage Library 843-686-6560 to register for the class.

Historical Maps for Sale

We now have historical maps for sale for \$2 each. Thirty-five of the maps are historical geographical surveys of different locations in the state of Virginia. One is from Staten Island and another from Cumberland, MD. A complete list is at the front desk. Come check them out.

JANUARY 2017 THE HERITAGE OBSERVER 7

Beaufort Update

ur Beaufort Branch volunteers met recently to make plans for 2017 and we have some great ideas. As you can see on our winter class schedule below we will have classes from January through March. They will be held in the lecture room on the first floor of the Santa Elena History Center where the Heritage Library Branch is located.



By Linda Piekut, **Executive Director**

In addition to these new classes, we are going to introduce a new quarterly program called "Tea and Sympathy" to allow our library patrons

to bring in their brick walls for our panel of experts to try to solve. We will provide tea and cookies and, if we cannot solve your problem, lots of sympathy.

The Beaufort County Accommodations Tax Committee and Beaufort County Council have donated money to erect a sign at the front of the building on Bay Street directing visitors to the building and highlighting our presence there. We will soon have our promotion plan in place for the Beaufort Branch, so watch for updates. Information on classes and programs will be available on our website, www.HeritageLib.org, and on the Santa Elena website, www.santa-elena.org.

If you would like to be on a mailing list specifically for Heritage Library activities in Beaufort, let Linda Piekut know at lindapiekut@ gmail.com.

All classes will be on Thursdays, from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm \$10 members, \$15 non-members

Reservations Required: Phone 843-379-1550 or online at www.santa-elena.org

Jan 19 — Beginning Genealogy

Feb 9 — African-American Ancestry

Feb 16 — Researching German Ancestors

Feb 23 — Free Sites 1; FamilySearch.org

Mar 2 — Free Sites 11

Mar 9 — Searching Military Records in Fold 3

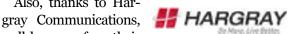
Mar 16 — Writing Your Family Narrative using Microsoft Word

Zion Update

ince the Library's most difficult task in 2016 was cleaning up the fallen trees and debris in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, I have covered this on Page 2.

We have two very significant organizational donations to our capital campaign that I would like to highlight here. Our thanks go to the Dr. George Mosse Chapter of the South Carolina Branch of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution for their \$5,000 contribution to the renovation of the Baynard Mausoleum.

Also, thanks to Harwell-known for their



community support, for their \$1,000 donation.

The generosity of these two organizations with their significant gifts will help us reach our goal. Thank you.



Left to right: Jim Robinson (SAR and Heritage Library), Bailey Keeling (SC State Registrar and Heritage Library), Paul Walter (President, Dr. George Mosse Chapter, NSSAR), Linda Piekut (Executive Director, Heritage Library), and Peter Cooper (SAR and Heritage Library).

Librarian's Corner



By Susan Dobbs, Volunteer

A Rare Book Find

he Library recently received an interesting memoir written by a soldier, Benjamin W. Thompson, who served on Hilton Head during the Civil War.

Major Thompson marched through Harper's Ferry, VA in

1862 with the New York Infantry. He then served at Gettysburg and later in the Battle of Bull Run. He came down with tuberculosis and later typhoid fever while serving at Fort Jackson. He did not give up.

[BOOK cont'd on Page 8]

Heritage Library Membership

Welcome to 11 New and 24 Renewal Members who have joined our Heritage Library Family.



By Laurette Doscher-Benfante, Membership Chair

New Members

South Carolina

Bluffton

Jeannie Doscher Sandra and John Gibson Anne Hamilton Carolyn Levine

Hilton Head Island

Michelle Deis Eleanor Fall Earl Green Michael Moore Hellman Jennifer and Paul Walter

Okatie

David Woodward

Out of State

Carol and Ward Mathis, North Granby CT

Renewal Members

South Carolina

Bluffton

Alan Chaput
Barbara Friis
Bonnie and Pete Leone
Sylvia Aal Martinez
Carole and Ronald Rossi
Cecilia Umhey

Hilton Head Island

Marty and Paul Anthony
Patricia Burke
Dodi and Harry Eschenbach
Eileen Fitzgerald and Ed Forrest
Norman Harberger
Catherine and Daniel Hofmann

Sharon Lewis

Diana and David Luellen Marian and Porter Morgan Nina and Stewart Rodman Jacquelyn and Arthur Ryan

Diane and David Sanders

George Stubbs

Theresa and Harvey Varnet

Donna Waller

Carroll and George Williams

Out of State

Gretchen and Thomas Davant Johns, Jacksonville FL

Sandra Kay Karmazin, Grosse Ile MI

Clemson Visit

lemson University students in the Pan African Studies, Creative Inquiry Section, visited Heritage Library right after Hurricane Matthew. This was a new group, starting a train-



By Ezra "Cal" Callahan

ing session at the Library on how to do genealogy research and learning the history of Mitchelville. On Friday the students worked on genealogy research at the Library. Mitchelville was impacted by the damage done by Hurricane Matthew so the students spent Saturday, October 29, at the historic Penn Center on St. Helena Island assisting with cleaning up debris left in the wake of Matthew. Students raked and cleared debris left behind when larger trees at the site were removed by heavy machinery.

The students cleared a walking path to Gantt Cottage so that tours of the center might resume. Gantt Cottage is a well-known tourist site. This is the place where Dr. Martin Luther King composed three quarters of his historic "I Have a Dream" speech.



Pictured in front of Gantt Cottage, left to right, on the front row are students Cameron Scott, Paris Arrington, Kallison Cook, Bianca Jordan, Katrice Robertson, and Ezra "Cal" Callahan, Heritage Library Activity Coordinator for the research classes. In the back are students Alyshia Ravenel, Jamila Curenton and Community Research Partner, Ruth May of Westminister, SC.

[BOOK cont'd]

He asked to be re-assigned to active duty. He was then transferred to guard duty at Fort Mitchel on Hilton Head. Malaria struck him and he spent time in the Hilton Head Hospital.

He met Adeltha Twichell from Maine,

became engaged and married in 1865. He was promoted to colonel and became Provost Marshall of the Hilton Head District. His job was to process all incoming US Colored Troops and overlook their care at Fort Mitchel.

At the end of the war, he processed

General Sherman's incoming prisoners from Andersonville and was responsible for trading them for rebel soldiers.

This memoir was typed by Col. Thompson and placed in a leather bound book which is now in our Library's Rare Book Collection.