

## APRIL IS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTH

The impact of volunteerism continues to grow as more people donate valuable time and money to meaningful causes in their communities. Volunteering rates continue to rise on average, demonstrating that many Americans are eager to uplift others and create long-lasting change. Despite busy schedules and economic ups and downs, volunteering is an important part of American society. About 63 million individuals regularly devote some of their time to helping others. This is equivalent to about a quarter of the overall adult population.

The Heritage Library is privileged to have more than 45 regular volunteers giving their time and talent to our organization. There is no doubt that our organization



**By Sarah O'Leary Takacs**  
*Vice President,  
Board of Directors*

would not exist without support from our volunteers and we would not be as strong without the wealth of talent and knowledge that they bring. Volunteers touch everything that we do. We are governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. Volunteer genealogists help hundreds of families with ancestry research annually. Volunteers help with

the day to day operations of the Library – answering phones, filing, organizing, keeping the stacks organized, accounting, cataloguing and more. We have a talented team that present history and ancestry classes and conduct tours at our historic sites. The list goes on and the support continues to grow. And, please keep in mind that many of our volunteers also share their time and talent with other

organizations in our community.

This month we celebrate National Volunteer Appreciation Month and thank all who give so generously. You are appreciated and respected – thank you!



*Kathy Smith as Frances Gage*



*Randy brings a bit of mystery to Ghosts & Myths*



*Tom Martin as William Baynard*



*Steve, Jane, Bob and Diane are here to help on Wednesdays*



*Robert, Audrey, Julie and Kirk are just part of Team Thursday*



*Ken, Suzanne, Terri, Richard and Bailey make Tuesdays interesting*



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# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By *Barbara Catenaci* | *Executive Director*

Spring is in the air and aside from that pesky pine pollen and a few gnats, I am sure we are all looking forward to one of the best seasons on our Island. And the best way to kick off this season is the RBC Heritage presented by Boeing. This year is the 56th anniversary of the tournament. In August, The PGA tour announced that our tournament will be one of eight Signature Events with limited field size on the 2024 PGA Tour. Each of the eight events will feature a \$20 million purse, a limited field and will offer 700 FedEx points to the winner. Five of the Signature Events, including the RBC Heritage will not have a cut. Congratulations to the RBC Heritage – you have always been a Signature Event for our community and now you are a Signature PGA Event.

And the RBC Heritage also means that you can donate to local charities through the Birdies for Charity Program and Heritage Champions Fore Charity Program. Donating through these programs means that your generosity will be rewarded with a 20% match through the Heritage Classic Foundation. The Heritage Library is a registered charity with HCF and these two giving programs are a major reason that we can continue to provide quality programming, preserve local history, protect historic sites and help families research their roots. We can't say thank you enough for the support provided by you, the Heritage Classic Foundation and the RBC Heritage presented by Boeing.

Better weather means more outdoor activities and the start of our tour season. Tours of our historic sites begin on April 16th and will run through October. The Library's docents and living history characters conduct tours at Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 AM and at Fort Mitchel on Thursday mornings at 10:30 AM. The tours are a great way to learn about

our local history through the eyes of the people that were here from colonial times through the Civil War. Each site covers a particular period of our history and the tours are a fun way to learn more about what happened here way back when. If you like history or have a yearning to show off your inner thespian – get involved and volunteer with our tours, we are always looking for docents and living history characters.

Carolina Day is the annual commemoration the Battle of Sullivan's Island on June 28, 1776. On that day, a small band of South Carolina Patriots defeated the British Royal Navy in the Battle of Sullivan's Island. Troops, led by Colonel William Moultrie, were stationed at an incomplete palmetto log and sand fort near Breach Inlet. Soldiers defeated a British naval force of nine warships led by Commodore Sir Peter Parker as they attempted to invade Charlestown by way of the Harbor. After a nine-hour battle the ships were forced to abandon their efforts to occupy Charlestown.

The Liberty Flag was designed by Colonel William Moultrie and waved by Sergeant William Jasper to rally the troops during the battle. This scene was famously painted by Johannes Adam Simon Oertel, a German-American artist. The Liberty Flag became the basis for the Flag of South Carolina which bears an image of the same palmetto trees that were used to build Fort Moultrie.

The anniversary of the victory was celebrated starting in 1777, when it was then known as Palmetto Day. The anniversary became known as Carolina Day in 1875. If you are a Library member, we hope you will stop in and see us on June 28th and pick up a small South Carolina State Flag – our way of celebrating this anniversary.

# SPOTLIGHT ON THE LIBRARY



BY JANE THEISSEN  
*Library Chair*

A great deal of exciting activity is taking place in the Library these days and I'd like to take this opportunity to give you an update. The first piece of good news


is that we received a large donation in the fall in the form of several boxes of books from a generous supporter. Major additions have been made to the following collections:

- Civil War
- South Carolina
- Native Americans
- African Americans
- History
- Beaufort County
- Hilton Head Island
- Genealogy

By now, most of them have been added to the catalog and are on the shelves waiting for you.

Another endeavor is the reorganization of our map collection, which numbers more than one hundred documents. Thanks to our wonderful volunteer, Joe Grondalski, who has taken on this project. While this is an ongoing project, it is already much easier to find what

maps we have and to access them when you are in the Library. Each map is labeled with a coded number and has been added to the catalog so you can see what we have before you come to visit. Here's an example of a catalog record for a map:



**A map of the most improved part of Carolina /**

**Branch:** Heritage  
**Location:** Map case  
**Call Number:** Maps 3-011      **Collection:** South Carolina  
**Pub. Info:** unknown, n.d.  
**Notes:**  
South Carolina parish churches maps

1 map.

will make it easier to locate those resources without having to search through everything "South Carolina." Some items in this group include books about the history, architecture, and ecology of the area, of course, but also census lists dating back to the 1800s for

The map drawers, which are located in the conference room, have been clearly labeled to make finding what you need even easier. We are also pulling atlases and similar resources from the shelves and housing them with the maps so you can retrieve everything in one spot. We hope you find this improvement helpful.

And finally, we have pulled the Beaufort County and Hilton Head Island books from our collection of South Carolina books and given them a special section of their own in the Library. Hopefully, this

Hilton Head and Beaufort, a reconstructed 1890 census list for the area, names of Hilton Head Civil War soldiers, historical cemetery burial listings, plat and plantation maps, archeology surveys, membership listings for some local parishes, and recent commission reports, among many other items.

Whether your interest is in genealogy or local history, there is much to be discovered at the Heritage Library. Come visit us soon!



## DO YOU KNOW THE STORY OF OUR ISLAND'S HISTORIC SILVER CHALICES?

If not, visit the Library's website at <https://heritagelib.org/video-stories> and watch as Rev. Greg Kronz tells their history and our history.

# DO NOT FEAR THE UNKNOWN

I remember many years ago being in a small county archives in middle Tennessee where visiting researchers were aided by several very capable grandmotherly ladies. This was not my first visit there, so I was familiar with how they operated, and was not surprised at the comments made to one young man. He had come to the facility, as many people did, looking for information on his ancestors that might fit into his own mental pictures of these folks. When the lady helping him that day starting pulling out large volumes labeled “Court Records”, he almost recoiled in horror as he stated, “Oh, I don’t know if I want to look in those! I might find out something bad about my ancestors.” The reply he received was quite illuminating – “Young man,” the elderly lady stated as she stood tall and proud with her hands on her hips and her elbows at an angle, “you better hope your ancestors did something besides just be born, live out a dull life, and die, because if that’s all they did, you probably won’t find a thing on them!” He decided he would look at the various court records for the time period he was researching.

Doing my own genealogy, the inclusion of DNA as an area of research led me to some seemingly devastating information that I had not anticipated. I was emotionally knocked for a loop to find the actual parent-hood on one line was not what I had thought during all of my researching years, but rather the individual in question was the

result of an affair between two people not married to each other. It is doubtful that the legal partners of these two adulterers knew of the affair, and it is even possible that the male of the “guilty” parties did not know he had fathered a child with his dalliance because he moved from one state to another, apparently shortly after the affair. Eventually his wife divorced him because of his many infidelities. The mother of the individual so conceived was apparently the only person who knew the true story and she took it to her grave, but DNA research revealed the true heritage.

I also remember when my husband and I were doing research on one of his lines, we discovered that one individual who had



By **Sunni Bond**  
*Library Volunteer*

used a hyphenated surname for most of his life did so because he was born out of wedlock. The father was a church official and according to documents in Virginia records, “the act” had apparently taken place in the church itself to which the other church leaders denied all knowledge. That guilty individual also moved to another state

where he quickly established that surname with a continuing number of offspring!

People often do not want to include such stories in their genealogy findings. However, we need to remember that we are not responsible for what our ancestors did. We are responsible for making sure that the truth is indicated in family trees, especially if they are published online or in books and/or articles. Such knowledge does not lessen who you are, but hiding such information does. Somewhere along the way at some time, the truth will come out as it should if we are going to be completely honest. Otherwise, we shouldn’t be doing genealogical research, or at least not for publication!

## HILTON HEAD CHURCHES

### CAMPBELL CHAPEL AME CHURCH - CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

Campbell Chapel AME Church, located in Bluffton, SC, is not only noteworthy as a religious institution but also significant is the history and cultural influence it has had on the Bluffton community.

This year marks 150 years since a group of nine former slaves acquired a building that had been built for a white Methodist congregation in 1853. They affiliated with the African Methodist Episcopal conference that began in Philadelphia, PA in 1794 but had existed almost exclusively in the northeast states prior to the Civil War. The name Campbell Chapel was chosen in honor of Jabez Pitt Campbell who was elected as the



BY **RICHARD CHALK**  
*Library Volunteer*

8th Bishop of the AME Church in 1864.

Campbell Chapel Sunday School was the only means of formal education for many disenfranchised African Americans during the Reconstruction Era. This significant contribution to the community was one of the

justifications used in seeking recognition on the National Register of Historic Places which was designated in 2019.

In June 2023, the Reconstruction Era National Historic Network announced the addition of Campbell Chapel AME to their network.

The current membership of the church is around 250 and included in that

number are some descendants of the original nine freedmen who founded the church. A summary of the impact the church has had throughout its history was best stated in a letter from the current Pastor, Dr. Jon R. Black, when announcing the upcoming events celebrating the 150 year anniversary: “Through the faithfulness of our members in each generation, Campbell Chapel has fed the hungry, clothed the naked, visited the sick, and comforted those in mourning.”

The anniversary will be celebrated June 30 – July 7, 2024, with the theme “Celebrate Our Past and Embrace Our Renaissance to Growth” 1874-2024.

Additional information can be found on the church’s website.

# FAMILY TREE MAKER 2024 IS COMING!



By Carol Clemens  
Library Volunteer

If you use Family Tree Maker software, you either have or will soon receive

an email about a new version of FTM 2024 being offered at a reduced price for

pre-order. The emails are being sent in stages, according to the company, so do not fret if you haven't gotten an email yet. The MacKiev company does not say when FTM 2024 will be available for downloading, just that to get the great price of \$29.99, you need to preorder when it is offered to you. After I pre-ordered, it clearly stated it will be ready for delivery "later in the year," meaning months. It may be Fall 2024 before the download link is available. Don't expect to get it now.

Here is a direct link to pre-order if you do not get the link.

[LINK TO 2024 FTM preorder](https://www.mackiev.com/offers/ftm2024/upgrade_promo.html?utm_source=promo&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ftm24_po_3do20240210US&edition=us) (ignore the 3-day sale note)

[https://www.mackiev.com/offers/ftm2024/upgrade\\_promo.html?utm\\_source=promo&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=ftm24\\_po\\_3do20240210US&edition=us](https://www.mackiev.com/offers/ftm2024/upgrade_promo.html?utm_source=promo&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ftm24_po_3do20240210US&edition=us)

**Do not order from any other source except the actual MacKiev site. They are the only legitimate seller of the software.**

Since I have already been asked by several about upgrading, I am sharing my thoughts. You need to decide for yourself. There is no reason you must upgrade because 2019 is yours and will work for as long as you want to use it. However, when offered the special upgrade price you might want to consider upgrading. *For those of you who purchased the software after January 6, 2024, you will be offered FTM 2024 for free.* Remember, all they



are offering now is a pre-order. The program is not yet available! You need to be patient.

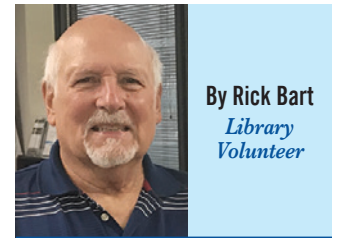
Here are my thoughts based on the limited info available as of late February.

1. There are some upgrades that I think may be flashier and more useful if you are interested in having a tree online and allowing relatives to send you ideas. This new feature is called the Connection Workspace. Again, this is what I understand from what little info was given. I am sure this would require syncing.
2. The album walk will not be something at all helpful for books. Again, flashy, and interesting but may not be useful for many folks.
3. Some of the upgrades seem to require you to use Sync and the subscription Tree Vault, which in the past they gave free for a year and then charged. I personally do not use Tree Vault, nor do I see a great advantage to using it if you are good at backing up off your computer.
4. Looking at the limited screenshots provided, the tools are in the same spots, and they do not mention major changes there. I would guess there may be a few minor things but the basics we learned in class do not appear to be changing. Again, limited info on this.
5. The Easy on the Eyes feature seems like a good addition since it enlarges just the section you are working on for easier viewing. This seems very helpful.
6. There are new tools in the Dark Room, but there isn't much info on this. They do list improved editing and a cropping tool.
7. The Resource Center is not well explained. I am not sure what they mean and how it works.
8. New versions always allow for importing your current FTM trees, so don't worry about that. It should not be a factor in your decision at all.
9. What is important to realize is that when there is a new version of any software, companies tend to end the fixes and updates for the older version. This alone is the most important reason to consider upgrading.
10. FTM normally doesn't release new versions until they are well tested. Also, they tend to roll them out so the download system is not over tasked.

My conclusion is that you need to decide for yourself. As for me, I did pre-order and will always be teaching classes from the newest version.

# INTERESTING ISLANDERS: *Binyahs & Comyahs*

*We are adding a new section to The Observer that focuses on Interesting Islanders. These articles will help you come to know some of the folks past and present, Binyah and Comyah who helped shape our Island. We hope you enjoy this new section.*



## BEATRICE MARGARET MILLEY

When the first contingent of 15,000 invaders came to Hilton Head Island over a century ago, landing from a Federal fleet early in the days of the Civil War, no present-day resident was on hand to witness the changes that overnight swept the island. In the 1950s and 1960s when another invasion began—this time by home-building newcomers armed with blueprints instead of bayonets—Miss Beatrice Milley was here to see the whole thing from the vantage point of her post office window. Miss Milley was Postmaster on Hilton Head Island for more than 20 years until she retired in 1963.

A native of New York State, Miss Milley came to the island in the 1930s long before the white beaches and parklike woodlands of Hilton Head Island brought the faintest of gleams to the eyes of even the most far-sighted developers. Her father Daniel N. Milley, Chicago manager of the United States Leather Trust, brought the family to Beaufort by way of Illinois. Her brother, Howard Nicholson Milley, became chairman of the board of Shubert Theatrical Enterprises in New York City, and was a marine recruit at Parris Island.

Miss Milley became acquainted with the charms and sub-tropical beauty of Hilton Head Island while on trips between Beaufort and Savannah aboard the old steamers *Cliveden* and *Pilot Boy*. There was a steamboat wharf near the present day Hilton Head Harbor Marina, and on daylight approaches to the island, she stood beside the rail to watch the tall trees along the shore line and the flashing wings of birds over the marshes.

She eventually made her way to Hilton Head Island and became Postmaster in 1942 when the post office was in a frame building housing a general store on Jenkins' Island. In the early days mail was brought to the island by boat. Later it was transported by truck from Savannah to the nearest point on the mainland and was

rowed across to the post office on a three-times-a-week basis.

It was not until the James F. Byrnes Memorial Bridge was completed in 1956 in that the present system of daily motorized delivery was established. Miss Milley reported that early in her career, many island residents would not collect their mail more than three or four times a year. Upon occasions the recipient of a letter would wait patiently until she had a



*Beatrice Milley*

free moment and then approach the window to ask "Please Ma'am, would you give me the understanding of this here letter?" She would do so and when indeed, interpret the meaning, give advice and even compose and write an answer. Her services far exceeded those required by the governmental manual.

She not only had to know her patrons in order to distribute the mail, but it was frequently necessary to know all about the antecedents and family connections. Much land was still in the names of long-dead owners. The distribution of the annual tax collection forms for

Beaufort County required ingenuity, persistence and a flair for detective work. Receipt of the forms would sometimes bring the stunned taxpayer to "Miss Bea" with a request for a small personal loan, which as often as not would be granted. None of this was covered in the postal regulations.

Outgoing parcel post packages to the sender's families in New York, Philadelphia and other distant places sometimes contained fish preserved by a primitive island method called "corned". Freshly caught fish was cleaned and rolled in a mixture of corn meal and salt. This worked well for a short period of time, but in the hot summertime when the post office got the package a couple of days before the mail shipment to the mainland, the problem that resulted was far-reaching indeed.

In 1953, the post office was moved and assistants were added as the volume of business expanded rapidly. By the time she retired in 1963, the island was developing into one of the nation's finest resort and retirement locales. Miss Milley's era on the island spanned the years from wood burning stoves, oil lamps, kerosene refrigerators, battery operated radios and abundant wild life to paved roadways, electric service and telephone connection to the mainland.

Miss Beatrice Margaret Milley was an interesting Comyah to our island and an important part of our community and history.



*HHI Post Office where Miss Milley served*



The Heritage Library is privileged to be a designated charity of the Heritage Classic Foundation. Their work locally and in partnership with the RBC Heritage and PGA TOUR helps us to present classes, programs, and events as we teach local history and help families learn more about their own history. HCF will provide a **20% match to your donation** when you donate to Heritage Library through their Birdies for Charity and Champions for Charity programs. Please donate today and support the Library and the good work of the Heritage Classic Foundation. Thank you.

To donate and support the Heritage Library, go to [HeritageClassicFoundation.com/giving-opportunities/](https://HeritageClassicFoundation.com/giving-opportunities/)



OFFICIAL REGISTERED CHARITY

# HERITAGE LIBRARY HISTORIC TOURS



## ZION CEMETERY & BAYNARD MAUSOLEUM COSTUMED CEMETERY TOUR



Costumes supported by Bargain Box

**TUESDAYS AT 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.*

**\$10/LIBRARY MEMBERS • \$12/NON-MEMBERS  
CHILDREN 12 & UNDER FREE**

**Registration required. [HeritageLib.org/Tours](https://HeritageLib.org/Tours)**



## HISTORIC FORT MITCHEL TOUR



**THURSDAYS AT 10:30AM**

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

*65 Skull Creek Dr., Hilton Head Plantation*

**\$10/LIBRARY MEMBERS • \$12/NON-MEMBERS  
CHILDREN 12 & UNDER FREE**

**Registration required. [HeritageLib.org/Tours](https://HeritageLib.org/Tours)**

# Educate & Celebrate

## SOUTH CAROLINA IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: AFRICAN AMERICAN PATRIOTS THE SIEGE OF NINETY SIX - MAY 22 - JUNE 18, 1781

African Americans contributed to both Loyalist and Patriot forces during the 1781 siege. Loyalists used enslaved African Americans to build fortifications and perform other noncombat assignments. African Americans did similar work for Patriot forces, but many also served as soldiers in the Continental Army and militia units that took part in the siege.

Most unit muster rolls did not specify the race of soldiers so it is difficult to know how many African American soldiers were present at this battle. An August 1778 report to General George Washington indicated that African Americans were 3-4% of the Continental Army force. We can estimate from that report that there may have been as many as 65 African American soldiers who fought at Ninety Six. Those soldiers would have belonged to several units, including the famed Maryland Brigade. We are providing you short stories about a few of those Patriots.

**AGRIPPA HULL** - Agrippa Hull served at Ninety Six as the orderly of Colonel



Agrippa Hull

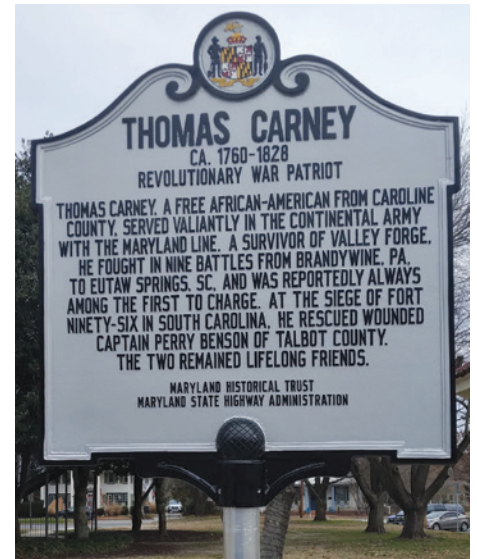


**AMERICAN  
REVOLUTIONARY  
WAR**  
1775 2025  
HERITAGE LIBRARY

Tadeusz Kosciuszko, the Polish military engineer who oversaw the construction of the Patriot siege works there. Hull was born on 7 March 1759 to freed bondsman in Northampton, Massachusetts. His father died when Hull was just an infant, and his mother struggled to provide for her son. Hull went to live with a free Black farming family in Stockbridge, a town made up of Native Americans, free Black families, and white families.

Shortly after his 18th birthday in 1777, Hull enlisted in the Continental Army and was assigned as an orderly to Major General John Paterson. He saw British General John Burgoyne's surrender at Saratoga and endured Valley Forge during the winter of 1777-78. In May 1779, Hull began serving with Kosciuszko when the engineer was building the defenses at West Point. The two men became close friends, and Hull stayed with Kosciuszko during the heaviest fighting in the Southern theater. Hull fought in the Battle of Cowpens, the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, the Siege of Ninety-Six, and the Battle of Eutaw Springs. It was during this last battle that Hull assisted surgeons treating wounded Patriot soldiers.

After the war, Hull returned to West Point and received his discharge from the Continental Army in July 1783. Reportedly, Hull turned down an offer from Kosciuszko to settle in Poland. Hull instead returned to Stockbridge and found work as the assistant to Theodore Sedgewick, a young lawyer who had recently won a landmark anti-slavery case before the Massachusetts Supreme Court. Hull also was a shrewd buyer of real estate and became the largest African American landowner in Stockbridge.



**THOMAS CARNEY** - At the time of the Siege of Ninety Six, Thomas Carney was a member of the 2nd Regiment of the Maryland Continental Brigade. A free African American, Carney was born in 1754 and lived in Caroline County, on Maryland's Eastern Shore. In the spring or summer of 1777, he enlisted as a private with the Maryland militia. Carney fought in the Battles of Brandywine and Germantown later that autumn.

Carney endured the cold winter of December 1777-78 with the rest of



the Continental Army at Valley Forge. He probably was part of a detachment that was stationed at a strategic bend in the Delaware River near Wilmington, Delaware rather than at the main camp. In May 1778, Carney enlisted in the 5th Maryland Regiment of the Continental Line and transferred to the 7th Maryland Regiment a month later. Carney probably did not see action again until his brigade traveled south during the spring of 1780.

At just over six feet tall, and known for his considerable strength, Carney earned a reputation as a fierce fighter. During the Battles of Camden and Guilford Court House, Carney led several bayonet charges against the enemy. However, it was at the Siege of Ninety Six where his heroics were particularly notable. Carney's company commander, Captain Perry Benson, was gravely wounded during an assault on the star fort. Under fire, Carney carried Benson back to the surgeon's tent. His actions saved Benson's life, and the two men developed a lasting friendship that continued after the war.

Carney returned to Caroline County, Maryland in 1783. When he was discharged in November, he received a cash bonus and a land grant of 100 acres. His application for a veteran's pension indicates that Carney took up farming near the town of Denton, married, and had two daughters. Carney's pension application was witnessed by his former company commander, Perry Benson.



Andrew Ferguson



Stockade Fort - Ninety Six National Historic Site

**ANDREW FERGUSON** - Andrew Ferguson was a free African American who may have served as a private in the 1st Spartan Regiment of the South Carolina militia during the siege. Born in July 1765 in Dinwiddie County, Virginia, Ferguson was 15 years old when he and his father were forced into service with the British. They escaped two weeks later and joined the Patriot militia. Ferguson fought in many of the significant battles in the South, including Camden, King's Mountain, Cowpens, and Eutaw Springs. Ferguson was discharged from service near Yorktown, Virginia in late 1781.

Ferguson was wounded in the leg during the Battle of Camden and received a head injury during the Battle of Guilford Court House. A surgeon treated the head wound by inserting a plate reportedly made from hammered silver coins. After his discharge, Ferguson required additional hospitalization for his head wound. In 1844, Ferguson cited the increasing pain and disabilities caused by these wounds as justification for an increase in his basic pension of twenty dollars per year. Despite his serious injuries, Andrew Ferguson lived to 95 years of age.

**ADAM ADAMS** - Adam Adams was a private in the Maryland Brigade of the Continental Army during the Siege of Ninety Six. Adams was born in 1763 as a free African American and lived in Charles County, Maryland. Like his brother-in-arms Thomas Carney, Adams enlisted in the spring of 1777. Adams was assigned to the 1st Maryland Regiment of the Continental Army and served until the end of the war.

Adams' pension records do not specify in which battles he fought. As a long-time member of the 1st Maryland Regiment, he probably participated in the Battles of Monmouth, Camden, Cowpens, Guilford Court House, the Siege of Ninety Six, and The Battle of Eutaw Springs.

He was discharged in November 1783 in Annapolis, Maryland. He returned to Charles County to farm and raise a family.

For more information on the role of African Americans in the American Revolution, visit <https://southcarolina250.com/> or come and visit us at The Heritage Library.



# THE HILTON HEAD FISHING COOPERATIVE & THE BATTLE AGAINST BASF

This spring, the Town of Hilton Head Island will unveil a new public art display and exhibit kiosk honoring the history of the Hilton Head Fishing Cooperative at the Rowing and Sailing Center at Squire Pope Community Park. This property is the historic location of the Cooperative which operated from 1966 through 1978. This group of Hilton Head Island shrimpers, concerned by a proposed petrochemical plant planned to be constructed at Victoria Bluff, joined forces with local developers to fight against the plant between late 1969 and early 1971.



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

the newly formed Hilton Head Fishing Cooperative bought 0.75 acres on Skull Creek in the Gullah community of Stoney. They built their own docking facilities including a processing house, a railway for dry docking boats, an icehouse, and a retail sales office. Membership to the co-op cost \$500 and provided

independence to local Black shrimpers. The co-op ensured that its members received market value for their catch. At its height, 25 boats were part of the Hilton Head Fishing Cooperative.

The exhibit will be accompanied by a mural depicting the Capt. Dave trawler by local artist, Amiri Farris. The Capt. Dave cruised from Hilton Head Island to Washington D.C. in April 1970 to protest the BASF's plans. Excerpts from exhibition kiosk: In 1966, three African American businessmen came together with an idea to form a fishing cooperative. The initial idea came from Freddie Chisholm, who had worked on shrimp boats for years and wanted a self-sufficient path for Black fishermen on Hilton Head Island. Along with David Jones #1, who owned Jones' Garage on the island, and Thomas C. Barnwell Jr. who served as the Director of Community Development at the Penn Center, the three charted a path to make the Hilton Head Fishing Cooperative a reality.

Barnwell helped secure a loan from the Farmers Home Administration. Armed with a favorable feasibility study that supported that a Black-owned fishing co-op would help preserve the local seafood industry, they created the Hilton Head Fishing Cooperative. The co-op ensured that members received fair market value for their shrimp by giving owners full access to their own dock and facilities.

## THE CO-OP FORMS

With an initial loan of \$66,290 secured,



*Fishing cooperative from NYT William E Sauro*

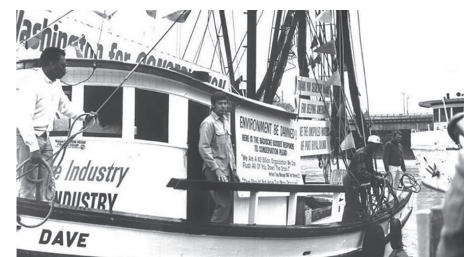
## THE BASF CONTROVERSY

German-based Badische Anilin Soda Fabrik (BASF) announced plans for a new petrochemical plant at Victoria Bluff, just upstream from the Hilton Head Fishing Cooperative's dock in 1969. They promised well-paying jobs and touted support from the local NAACP as well as county and state elected officials, but at what cost?

## THE COMMUNITY REACTS

An unlikely allyship formed between local developers Charles Fraser of the Sea Pines Company, Fred Hack and Orion

Hack of the Hilton Head Company, and the Hilton Head Fishing Cooperative. They all had reservations about the long-term effects of plant pollution on the landscape of Hilton Head Island. With their livelihood and the health of the waterways around Hilton Head Island threatened, the co-op took drastic action to protect the estuaries where they fished. Together with other opposition to BASF, they organized a bold protest.



*Capt. Dave*

## THE CAPT. DAVE GOES TO WASHINGTON

In April 1970, the HHFC sent a 43-foot shrimp trawler from their fleet, the Capt. Dave, on a coastal protest. Local opposition leaders on board included co-op Captain Joseph Simmons, David Jones #2, Jacob Driessen, and John Gettys Smith from the Sea Pines Company. David Jones #1, owner of the Capt. Dave



*Cruise for Conservation 1970 - photo by Ora E. Smith*

*Hilton Head Fishing Cooperative continued...*

and president of the HHFC, met his boat and fellow fishermen when it arrived in Washington, DC.

### CRUISE FOR CONSERVATION

Carefully timed to coincide with the first celebration of Earth Day, they stopped at ports to meet the press and gather more

signatures for their petition. At their final stop in DC, they presented the petition and 25 lbs. of fresh Lowcountry shrimp to the Secretary of the Interior, Walter J. Hickel. The protest made national headlines and gained Hickel's support. He called for a moratorium on the plans for the plant until environmental impacts

and potential pollution could be assessed. With waning support, in early 1971

BASF abandoned the plans for their Victoria Bluff plant signaling a major victory for the Hilton Head Fishing Cooperative and for the future of the local fishing industry on Hilton Head Island.

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

On February 29th, the Library held its Annual Membership Meeting. We kicked off this year's meeting with a visit from Billy Keyserling and an update on the Reconstruction Era National Park in Beaufort. As always, Billy was insightful, interesting and entertaining. The John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act was signed into law on March 12, 2019, and outlined the



creation of the Reconstruction Era National Historic Network. The network is managed by the Reconstruction Era National Historic Park, includes sites and programs that are affiliated with the Reconstruction Era, but not necessarily managed by the National Park Service. The network facilitates and reviews Reconstruction Era related research and collaboration with affiliated sites and programs through agreements and partnerships. It is a nationwide network and works to provide opportunities for visitors to connect to the stories of Reconstruction. We encourage you to visit Beaufort and learn more about this important part of American history. We can't thank Billy enough for sharing this important information with us.

In addition to learning more about the Reconstruction Era Park and Network, we presented a quick overview of what was accomplished in 2023 and what we are hard at work on in 2024. Each year at this meeting, you the membership get to share your thoughts and ideas with us and you



**By Ezra Callahan**  
*President,  
Board of Directors*

also elect new members to the Board of Directors. I want to thank everyone who attended and/or returned a proxy providing us with a quorum in order to do the business of the organization. We hold the participation of our membership in high regard and encourage all members to attend these meetings – we are only as strong as our membership.

You, the membership, elected the following to a 3-year term on the Board of Directors: Greg DeLoach, Laurette Doscher-Benfante, Nathaniel Jones, Galen Miller and Sarah Takacs. We look forward to working with this group of talented and committed folks as the Library continues to grow.

The by-laws require that we conduct an Annual Membership Meeting in February of each year and again, I encourage you to participate. We want to hear from you and we want to know how we can keep you involved in our progress. Hope to see you in February 2025, if not sooner.



*Reconstruction Park - Downtown Beaufort*



*Darrah Hall - Beaufort*

# HERITAGE LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to 7 New and 12 Renewing Members who have joined our Heritage Library Family.



BY LAURETTE  
DOSCHER-BENFANTE  
Membership Chair

## NEW MEMBERS

### South Carolina

#### Hilton Head Island

Kenneth Benkeser  
Berryman Edwards Jr.  
Irene LaVigne  
Miguel Montanez  
Janet and John Pattillo

### Out of State

Mia Edwards, West Dover VT  
Timothy Scanlin, Brooklyn NY

## RENEWING MEMBERS

### South Carolina

#### Beaufort

Nancy Anderson

#### Hilton Head Island

Kathleen and Richard Bart  
Julie Brumbelow  
Barbara Catenaci  
Doris Eschenbach  
Angie and Walter Greenfield  
Elizabeth Hanson  
Beverly Jennings  
Carolyn and James Robinson  
Georgia and Henry West  
Joyce and John Wilfore

### Out of State

Melanie Marks, Fairfield CT

*Our members are very important to us and we want to keep you up to date on all that is happening at The Heritage Library but we need your help in order to reach out to you. If you have moved or changed your email address or telephone number, please send a short note to [info@heritagelib.org](mailto:info@heritagelib.org) and we will make sure that your contact information is up to date.*

*Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Instagram.*



## JOIN OUR HISTORY TEAM

Volunteers play a vital role in keeping our history alive. Our history volunteers study local history and present what they learn while conducting tours at our historic sites. They also help with special events and education groups. They get to meet interesting visitors and residents and tell the stories of those who came before us. It is interesting and fun volunteer work and we would love to have you join the team.

The Heritage Library could not be a success without the generous donation of volunteer time and effort. We would love for you to join our team. If you are interested in becoming a part of our enthusiastic and knowledgeable volunteer family, please contact us at [info@heritagelib.org](mailto:info@heritagelib.org).



## COME BACK TO THE LIBRARY

*We have been privileged to receive book donations from Elizabeth Cale, the Harberger Family, the Holcombe Family and Nancy Landry and that means that our shelves are filled with even more resources. Take the time to come into the Library and learn more about your family history, Hilton Head Island history and American history.*

 Cut out and mail with donation to address below.

## DONATE TO SUPPORT THE HERITAGE LIBRARY TODAY!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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Please mail checks to:

Heritage Library  
Attn: Donations  
PO Box 5950  
Hilton Head Island, SC 29938



OR donate online by scanning your camera phone here.

