



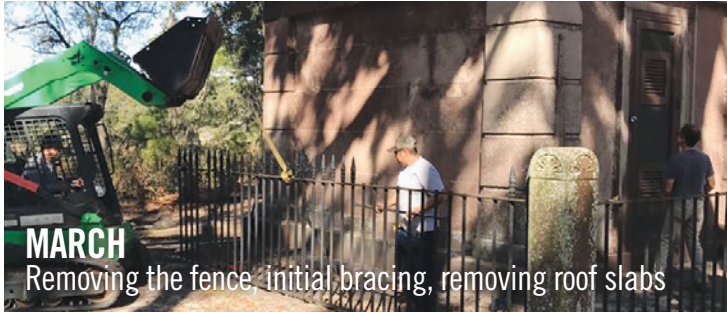
The Heritage Observer

News from
The Heritage Library

Bringing the Past to Life

Vol. 10, No. 3

July 2018



MARCH

Removing the fence, initial bracing, removing roof slabs

Amazing Work!



Church Mouse
THRIFT SHOP

Preliminary steps -

In early March, workers from American Master Ironworks in Bluffton removed the fence around the mausoleum. They will be restoring the fence while the mausoleum is under construction. Bracing was added to the mausoleum to stabilize the structure until the roof slabs could be removed.



Deconstruction -

Our restoration contractor is Frank Genello, from the American Building Restoration Company, Cohasset, MA. He removed the roof slabs and placed them at the back of the parking lot, revealing the crumbling old structure beneath with some stopgap bracing that had been added by local contractor, Kyle Mulligan, several years ago. The cornice and lintel stones then had to be removed so the cracked and broken pieces could be patched and old iron clamps replaced with new stainless steel.



APRIL

Frank with the old roof structure



MAY & JUNE

Repairing the broken pieces

Reconstruction -

Once all the repair work had been completed on the structure, the lintel, cornice stones, and the back gable stone were replaced into their original positions.



JUNE

Raising the gable

Completion -

What remains to be done is the placement of a new, concrete central beam across the top of the structure from front to back to which the roof slabs can be replaced and pinned for stability. The inside flooring will be reset, the outside of the building will be cleaned and stabilized to prevent further scaling, and the restored fence will be replaced. We thank the grants committee from the Church Mouse Thrift Shop for making this restoration possible.

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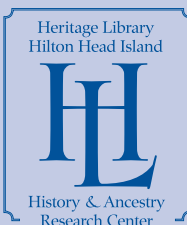
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From the Board

by Lou Benfante, President



As she is retiring from her current position as Executive Director of the Heritage Library, the Board of Directors of the Heritage Library Foundation thanks Linda Piekut for her years of service to the organization. Linda has served as IT Director, Board member, Board President, and Executive Director. During her years as a volunteer she has helped sponsor, coordinate, and direct the following events: the 350/30 Celebration, Speaker Series, Book Fairs, History Day, Bike Tours, Zion Forum, research projects on the citizens of Mitchelville and members of the 21st U.S. Colored Troop Regiment, and many special genealogy and history programs at the Library. In 2014 the

Heritage Library was named Organization of the Year by the Hilton Head/Bluffton Chamber of Commerce. In that same year *USA Today* included the Heritage Library on its listing of ten great places in the world to work on your family tree. Although Linda is leaving her current position, she plans to remain a Library volunteer and continue as the Chair of our Reconstruction Research Project, work on our website and opened a branch Library in the Santa Elena Center in Beaufort among other things. So we will miss her as our Executive Director, but are happy that she is remaining with us as a volunteer. Thank you Linda for all your service to the Heritage Library Foundation.

Honorariums

IN HONOR OF:

Jan Alpert -
 Lynda DeLuryea
 Sun City Computer Club

John Barrett -
 Barbara Fesche

Lou Benfante -
 HHP Women's Club

Sunni Bond -
 Chris Empincourt

Barbara Fries -
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Leslie Richards -
 Emily Geiger NSDAR

National Register Celebration



Right to left: Jenn McEwen, Dr. Barry Riordan, Lou Benfante, Dr. Ehren Foley, Linda Piekut, Mayor David Bennett, Peter Kristian



Dr. Foley Addresses the Audience

On Wednesday, June 20, the Heritage Library celebrated the admission of Ft. Mitchel into the National Register of Historic Places, the official list of our country's historic buildings, districts, sites, structures, and objects worthy of preservation. Approximately 100 people gathered

from Hilton Head Plantation and elsewhere to hear Dr. Ehren Foley from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History speak on the importance of this recognition to the community and the state, awarding the plaque to Heritage Library Board Member, Dr. Barrett Riordan. Dr. Riordan

spoke on the history of the fort and Mayor David Bennett and Peter Kristian, Hilton Head Plantation Manager, also spoke. After the award, attendees were able to walk the ramparts and hear the stories of the fort from the Heritage Library tour guides.

Librarian's Corner

The Library Department has added several volunteers and is almost fully staffed. We still need a Thursday Receptionist from 10am-3pm. If you know someone who might be interested, have them contact me, Susan Dobbs, librarian@heritagelib.org, for details.



Susan Dobbs
Head Librarian

Each day we have three main positions which are filled by a cadre of volunteers: a Librarian, a Receptionist, and a Genealogy Expert. We also have other volunteers who are working on specific projects, some for more than a year. Marty and Paul Anthony are finishing up a project researching those who served in the Civil War on Hilton Head Island and died there. The Anthony's have been working on this for more than five years. Anita Bagley just completed indexing the Hilton Head Monthly magazines. The

Reconstruction Committee is going through microfilms, transcribing Quartermaster Records, researching land records, and learning what was happening on the Island during the Reconstruction period. Linda Piekut will continue to head up this research which the Committee hopes to publish.

On my last visit to Salt Lake City, I spent a day at the Family History Library there. This five-story building contains a wealth of information and numerous volunteers willing to assist visitors. My most exciting event, while visiting one of the International floors, was being assisted by their Genealogist. She gave me tips on using Research Wiki. Let me share with you how it works.

1. Go to Family Search.org. (You will need to develop a username and password but there is no cost.)

2. Go to the Search button at the top.
3. Use the drop-down box under Search and go to Research Wiki.
4. Once there, in the blank box, type in the name of the country you wish to research.
5. On the right, you will see links to the country's history, types of records they have, and a lot of other information. Scroll down until you see the country's map. Then click on the county/parish district that has the information you are looking for.
6. You will see a list of smaller areas in the county/parish/district that you can click on for local records.
7. Be sure to look under parish, church and civil record links for pertinent information.

It is well worth your time to check this out. Happy searching!

Heritage Happenings

Reservations Required
Register online at HeritageLib.org,
or call 843-686-6560

TOURS

BIKE TOURS -

Wednesdays at 10am

Take a tour of sites along
Squire Pope Road

Bike and helmet provided

\$25 Adult • \$20 child

FORT MITCHEL -

Thursdays at 10:00

Tour the Civil War Earthworks Battery
in Hilton Head Plantation

\$12 Adult • \$7 child

ZION CHAPEL OF EASE CEMETERY -

Fridays at 10am

Meet historical characters who lived
during the Antebellum period and visit
the mausoleum

\$12 Adult • \$7 child

DINNER TOUR WITH GENERAL MITCHEL -

Monday evenings at 6:00pm

July 2, 9, 16, and 30

August 6, 13, 20 and 27

Call Old Fort Pub at 843.681.2386
for reservations.

\$50 Adult • \$20 child

For more information,
please see Page 8.

ANCESTRY & HISTORY PROGRAMS

Will resume in September



Volunteer Recognition Luncheon

Heritage Library thanked its wonderful volunteers with an annual luncheon held at Hudson's Seafood House on the Docks on April 20th.

Lou Benfante, Board President, greeted the group with, "I am constantly amazed and pleased at the expertise, commit-

ment, and dedication of our volunteers as they so skillfully assist our members and guests with their genealogy and as they work to research the Island's history and help to preserve and protect its history and historic sites..."





Richard Bart **Volunteer Award 2017**

Richard “Rick” Bart is the Library’s “People Person”—when Library researchers want information about a name they go to Rick for help and he gathers information about the person. He is an expert genealogy researcher.

Graduating from Tonawanda, NY high school, Rick enlisted in the US Air Force where he served for four years. After he was discharged, while working as an engineer at Raytheon, he earned an electronic engineer degree from Northeastern University. His career then took him to Kopin Corporation where he worked until retiring in 2013.

Rick became interested in genealogy after attending a family reunion in 1989 and he began researching his family tree. While living in Taunton, Massachusetts he collaborated with Old Colony History Museum and the Catholic Cemetery Office, documenting the five Catholic cemeteries. In 1998 he wrote and published *The Pease Family of Great Baddow, England*, a book about his brother-in-law’s family.

Rick and Kathleen “Kathy” Fraga were married in 1970 and have three grown children. They moved to Hilton Head Island in 2014 and he became a Library volunteer.

Rick’s first volunteer job was helping members and visitors research their family histories. Then Linda Piekut suggested that he research life on the Island from the quiet times up to the bridge. This led Rick to create the Hilton Head Island Family Tree on Ancestry. He researches every name he comes across that is associated with Hilton Head, adding it to the tree with biographical information and pictures.

Rick says, “I am having so much fun with my work at Heritage that I should be paying for the privilege of being a volunteer.”



Richard Thomas **President’s Award 2017**

Richard “Rich” Thomas has become an indispensable member of the History Department, creating exciting new programs, conducting tours, and performing administrative duties when necessary. He has done a fantastic job of representing the Library to both the Church Mouse Thrift Shop and the Town in order to help move the Baynard Mausoleum restoration project along and developing the plan for the future History Park at the Zion Cemetery.

Rich grew up in New Jersey, attending Princeton where he received a BA degree in East Asian Studies. He did his field work for a Masters in Cultural Anthropology from Thammasat University in Thailand. He has held positions in four diverse industries and for thirty years he was a Management and Leadership Consultant.

Rich and his high school sweetheart, Suzanne MacPherson, were married in a beach ceremony in New Jersey when flip flops were called Zori sandals. In 1987 they moved to Hilton Head from a Pennsylvania farm to avoid the October–May clouds and snow up North. In 2015, when Rich sold his interest in his consulting company, he became a volunteer at Heritage Library. In 2016 he became a Board member.

His volunteer projects have been diversified. He has researched, prepared, and delivered presentations about Sea Pines, Santa Elena, and Pedro Menendez de Aviles among others. He has been a guide at sites, active in fundraising, and helped with the development and production of the Zion Forum and Ghosts and Myths of Hilton Head.

Rich enjoys helping the Heritage Library, “a great organization,” gain recognition and repute in the community, helping to tell the stories that make HHI a special place with a unique history.



Bob Blot **Volunteer Award 2017**

Bob Blot is the Library’s “go-to” guy for many things – he is an excellent genealogy researcher with knowledge of all of the Library’s online databases as well as many more and he is willing to help whenever asked.

Bob grew up in the Albany, NY area and, except for his Air Force service, resided there until retiring to Hilton Head. He graduated from Sienna College and went to work in the New York State Comptroller’s Office; Management Audit Program. He worked there for 46 years becoming Administrative Director.

In 1968 Bob married Iling Lin in Taichung, Taiwan. Iling became a lab assistant in the NYS Health Department.

Twenty-five years ago, Bob’s uncle shared a document, “Recollections,” with him. It was the first time Bob learned about his father’s family history. This sparked his interest in genealogy and led to his quest to learn everything he could about his family roots.

Bob and Iling vacationed in Hilton Head, found it “paradise,” and decided to retire here in 2013. Learning about the Heritage Library and its genealogy programs, he became a volunteer in 2014.

Bob became involved with many research projects including the Zion Chapel of Ease burials. His assistance with the Library’s recent move, completing the physical inventory before and after the move, helping with the furniture layout at the new location, and working with the movers on the two days they were involved was priceless. When the Tuesday Librarian’s position became open, Bob was chosen to fill the spot.

Bob feels fortunate to work at the Library, helping others search their roots, using his genealogy hobby that has grown into a passion.

Sharing the Heritage

I hope you take the time to stop by the Zion Cemetery on William Hilton Parkway and Mathews Drive. You won't be disappointed. You will meet Frank Genello, a brilliant craftsman, who is restoring Hilton Head's oldest extant structure. You will have the opportunity to observe Frank's talent and intensive labor efforts and expertise as he repairs, restores and preserves the Baynard Mausoleum.

Frank grew up in Scranton, PA and learned the masonry trade from his father who also taught him to value hard work and attention to detail. Following



By Iva R. Welton

graduation from the University of Pittsburgh, Frank earned two Master degrees: Public Administration from Marywood College and Historic Preservation from Boston University.

After graduating from Boston University, Frank worked for the National Trust for Historic Preservation Workshop, developing advanced restoration skills. It was there that Frank met his wife and future business partner, Susan Busell. Together they have built the American Building Restoration Company, ARBC, into a highly successful business. They have three

children. Frank was a founding faculty member of the American College of the Building Arts in Charleston, SC. From 2005-2011 he developed and taught courses in management, masonry, carpentry, and an introduction to the trades. Many of Frank's former students have joined him at ARBC after graduation.

We are grateful to have Frank with his exceptional knowledge and skills of building restoration, working on the restoration of the Baynard Mausoleum. Frank's work allows him to pay homage to the architectural elegance of the past while adapting to a modern and ever changing world.

Thanks to donations from the Bargain Box, Archaeology Society of South Carolina, HH Chapter, and American Revolution Roundtable we now have costumes for some of our Zion Cemetery volunteers.



2018 Heritage Library Donors

The Heritage Library could not exist without the support of its donors.

Thank you to the following donors for the year 2018:

GOLD

Gwen & Bill Altstaetter
Sunni Bond
Margaret Burke
Richard R. & Phyllis L. Boyd
The Garcia Foundation
The Bargain Box
SC Archaeology Society
Elizabeth & James MacLeod

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Patrick Murphy
Mary & David Nelson
Joan & William Nichol
Barbara B. & Dalton A. Parker
Sheri & Don Spellman

ZION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DONORS

The 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

The Church Mouse Boutique Thrift Shop
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smith

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

Dr. George Mosse Chapter NSSAR
Pam and David Schofield
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Webb
VanLandingham Rotary Club
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\$10,000 - \$19,999 Preservationists

Dori M. Dixon
Carol and Ward Mathis

American Building
Restoration Company

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

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Heritage Library Membership



**By Laurette
Doscher-Benfante**
Membership Chair

Welcome to
19 New and 40
Renewal Members
who have joined
our Heritage
Library family.

NEW MEMBERS

South Carolina

Bluffton

Leo Short
Doreen and Arthur Baumann
Glendon and Palmer Jones
Steven McCaw
Robert Short

Hilton Head Island

Anne Bender
Mary Frances and Victoria Caruso
Richard Chalk
Josephine Kraft
Jeffrey Meyers
Tamsen Pearsall-Blank
Darlene and James Riggs
J. David Stitzer
Arthur Wallace
Francis Ward and Bonnie Gutman

Out of State

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Angela Key, Nacogdoches TX
Robert Lee, Wilmington DE

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South Carolina

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Dorothy Hood

Bluffton

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Paul Dauphin
Janis Gatschet
Karen and Ken Lebon
Janice and Richard McCollough
David Moon
Linda Percy
Barbara Redmond

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Shirley and Henry Bourgaux, Jr.
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Beverly and Tom Conner
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Judy McCracken and John McLaughlin
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John Witherspoon

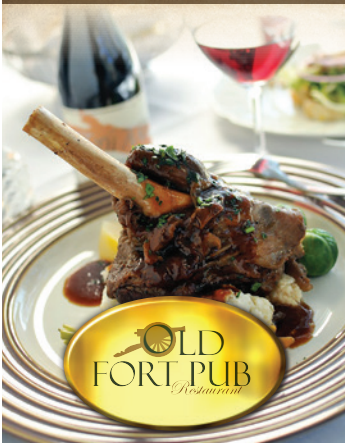
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Sandy and Tim Jerrigan
Jim Jordan

Out of State

Mary and Elizabeth Baxter,
Ryham MA
William Porter, Jasper GA
Ben Russell, Colfax NC
Donna and Greg Wannemacher,
Lima OH

DINNER & A TOUR WITH GENERAL MITCHEL



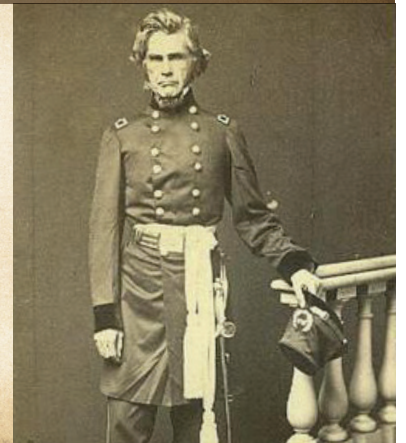
Join General Ormsby Mitchel for a three-course meal at the Old Fort Pub in Hilton Head Plantation and enjoy a talk on the battle of Port Royal and Hilton Head Island during the Civil War. After the dinner and talk, General Mitchel will lead a guided walking tour of Fort Mitchel.

Dinners and tours are scheduled on Monday evenings at 6:00pm, July 2, 9, 16, and 30; August 6, 13, 20 and 27

Call Old Fort Pub at 843.681.2386 for reservations.

Tickets: \$50 per Adult • \$20 per Child

A portion of your dinner and tour ticket will go to



The Heritage Library is a member of the Arts and Cultural Council of Hilton Head
www.HiltonHeadArtsDaily.org

Celebrating Arts, Culture and History: The Heart and Soul of the Lowcountry