

Zion Cemetery: An Archaeology Study

Last year, Heritage Library contacted Dr. Matthew Sanger, co-director of the Public Archaeology Program at State University of New York at Binghamton, with the proposal that he conduct an archaeology study at Zion Cemetery. He said, “yes” — very exciting.

In January, Dr. Sanger, Katie Seeber, his graduate assistant, also from SUNY Binghamton, and Quinn Ogden from the Archaeology Department at SM&E, an engineering firm in Savannah, arrived at Zion Cemetery with their new ground-penetrating radar machine. Staring at a screen hung around the neck, the user can see things buried beneath the soil. They were joined by David Gordon, President of the Hilton Head Archaeology Society. The photo below shows Gordon laying out the grid to define the different sections of the cemetery.

[CEMETERY cont'd on Page 2]



*Above: (from left) Katie Seeber, Dr. Matt Sanger & Quinn Ogden
Below, left: David Gordon lays out the grid.*

Below, right: Quinn Ogden with the ground-penetrating radar machine



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Dr. Michel Shamooun-Pour, of SUNY Binghamton, and Heritage Library executive director Linda Piekut look through ancestry records.

[CEMETERY cont'd]

Although we have not received their final report, we know that they found many "disturbances" that they attribute to unmarked graves. Even more exciting, they found the outlines of three rectangles that we assume are family plots based on their location and the existing stones. There are also a few locations where objects in the shape of gravestones are lying flat underground. It will be very satisfying to be able to right those stones and identify more of the people buried there.

They also surveyed the location where historians believe the original Chapel of Ease was located. We are waiting for further testing to confirm that location.

When we receive their final report, our next step will be to establish a modus operandi for excavating these treasures.

You may remember that Dr. Kimberly Cavanaugh and her archaeology students from USCB found human bones as they were cleaning the crypts of the mausoleum last year. The bones were sent to Dr. Abel, who works with the Charleston County coroner's office, for study. When Linda Piekut learned that Dr. Michel Shamooun-Pour, a DNA analysis expert from SUNY Binghamton, was arriving on Saturday, March 4th, the

bones were still in Charleston. Linda sent out an eblast email saying, "HELP." Luana Sellars, a Board member, answered Linda's call, driving up to Charleston to retrieve the bones.

Dr. Shamooun-Pour examined the bones, looking for the ones that he believed would yield the best DNA samples. He studied the ancestry of the Baynard and Scott families, (Catherine Baynard, William's wife, was a Scott) to identify the lines that we should pursue to give us the best samples. We hope that the study, based on the comparison of the bones' DNA to the DNA of current descendants, will confirm that the bones are Baynard/Scott bones.

A coffin marked "remains of M. Hergues" was found in the Baynard vault. Hergues is not a name in the Baynard/Scott family line which indicates that some of the bones found in the mausoleum may not be Baynard/Scott bones.

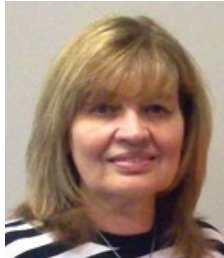
The library is very pleased to have made this connection with the Archaeology Department of SUNY Binghamton. This joint project is a wonderful opportunity to learn much more about the property we own and maintain, Zion of Ease Cemetery.

Elizabeth Hanson and Linda Piekut collaborated on this article.

History Department

The History Department continues to present at the Library and off sites — adding more each season.

Tuesday programs are well received with a large number of different rotating topics to pique interest. Tours of Zion are up and running even though the weather has presented a few chilly mornings for visitors. Fort Mitchel is on hold for now until repairs can be made to some concrete issues. A very good friend of Heritage Library, MAJ Enterprises, will take care of the repairs. Some safety issues with branches continue to be a concern.



*By Dee Phillips
History Co-Chair*

Barry Riordan and Lou Benfante travelled to Columbia on March 24 to present Barry's hard work on the addition of Fort Mitchel to the National Register of Historic Places. Zion's application was approved at the State Level in November, but we are waiting final word from the National Parks.

Presentations away from the Library are varied and numbered. General Mitchel appeared at Mitchelville conducting a walking tour for Junior Leadership Students. They continued their journey, stopping at Zion for a presentation there. Lou enjoyed sharing Island history with the Junior Leadership Class of the Chamber of Commerce.

Two Rotary talks shared the Library's deeds and activities. There is a presentation scheduled at Moss Creek with one of our new topics: Pirates. We are discussing evening presentations and Sunday afternoon opportunities. One new possibility is a Tea with Phoebe Waight Elliott, the wife of William Elliott who was the first successful Sea Island Cotton planter. The historical sites presentation continues at the Spinnaker Resorts in April. We are hoping to



The new sign outside the Santa Elena History Center

offer the Old Fort Pub dinner tours of Fort Mitchel again this summer.

We remain excited about our friendship with the Santa Elena Foundation and their good work. Check out the new sign that is in front of their site.

We are thankful for all of our volunteers at the Library who continue to share ancestry and history with those who live on the Island or visit.



Live closer to Beaufort?

***Why not research
your ancestry at our
Beaufort branch?***

BEAUFORT BRANCH

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843-379-1550

Librarian's Corner

Family Surname Files at the Library

Family surname research is basic to genealogy and history; since its inception, the Heritage Li-

brary has maintained paper surname files. These paper documents have been kept in manila folders and have included pedigree charts, newspaper and magazine articles, photographs and various other sources of family data. Now, thanks to several years of work by Glenda Blakeney, these files are digitized and can be accessed online, either at the Library or remotely on the Library's website.



*By Nancy Burke,
Head Librarian*

To access these files:

- In the Library, in the Patron Desktop, click on Library Databases and Surname files.
- On the website, click on Exploring Your Roots, Surname Files.

In addition to the digitized Surnames Files, you can also bring up the index to the Lawton and Allied Families Collection. This material is from the extensive work on Lowcountry Families compiled by Dr. Robert Peeples and available at the Library.

Many thanks to Glenda for bringing these valuable files online.

Zion Update



Paver Path

If you haven't walked in Zion lately, you may not have seen our new pathway honoring our donors of \$500 or more. The labor for the path was donated by Mike Jukofsky of MAJ Enterprises, Inc. Our donors have the opportunity to choose what they would like to have engraved on "their" pavers, so we have husbands and wives, families, children, organization names, and businesses commemorated there. Lots of room for more, so consider buying a brick to commemorate your loved ones or business.

Ribbon Cutting

On Saturday, February 18, we celebrated our new Learning Center with a ribbon cutting. Speakers included Linda Piekut from the Heritage Library, Kim Likins from the Town of Hilton Head Island, Lynne Lotz from The Bargain Box of Hilton Head Island (donors of the speaker platform), Jim Robinson, leader of the



Eagle Scout project, and Jacob Palchak, the Eagle Scout who, along with members of Scout Troop 245, built the benches. Even though there was a threat of rain, the day was sunny and warm during our dedication ceremony. The Heritage Library is now busy planning special programs that will be held at the new Learning Center.

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

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Womens Club of Sea Pines
Chuck Yahres

Sharing the Heritage

Included in my extensive research of Lowcountry history are Belfair Mansion and Rose Hill Plantation House. In March, a unique collaboration of Art (Alexandra Sharma) and History (Iva Welton) was held at the Art League of Hilton Head gallery. Alexandra presented her watercolors, “Historic Belfair and Rose Hill: Intimate and Revealing” and I presented a PowerPoint history talk about the intriguing past of these two iconic Lowcountry houses.

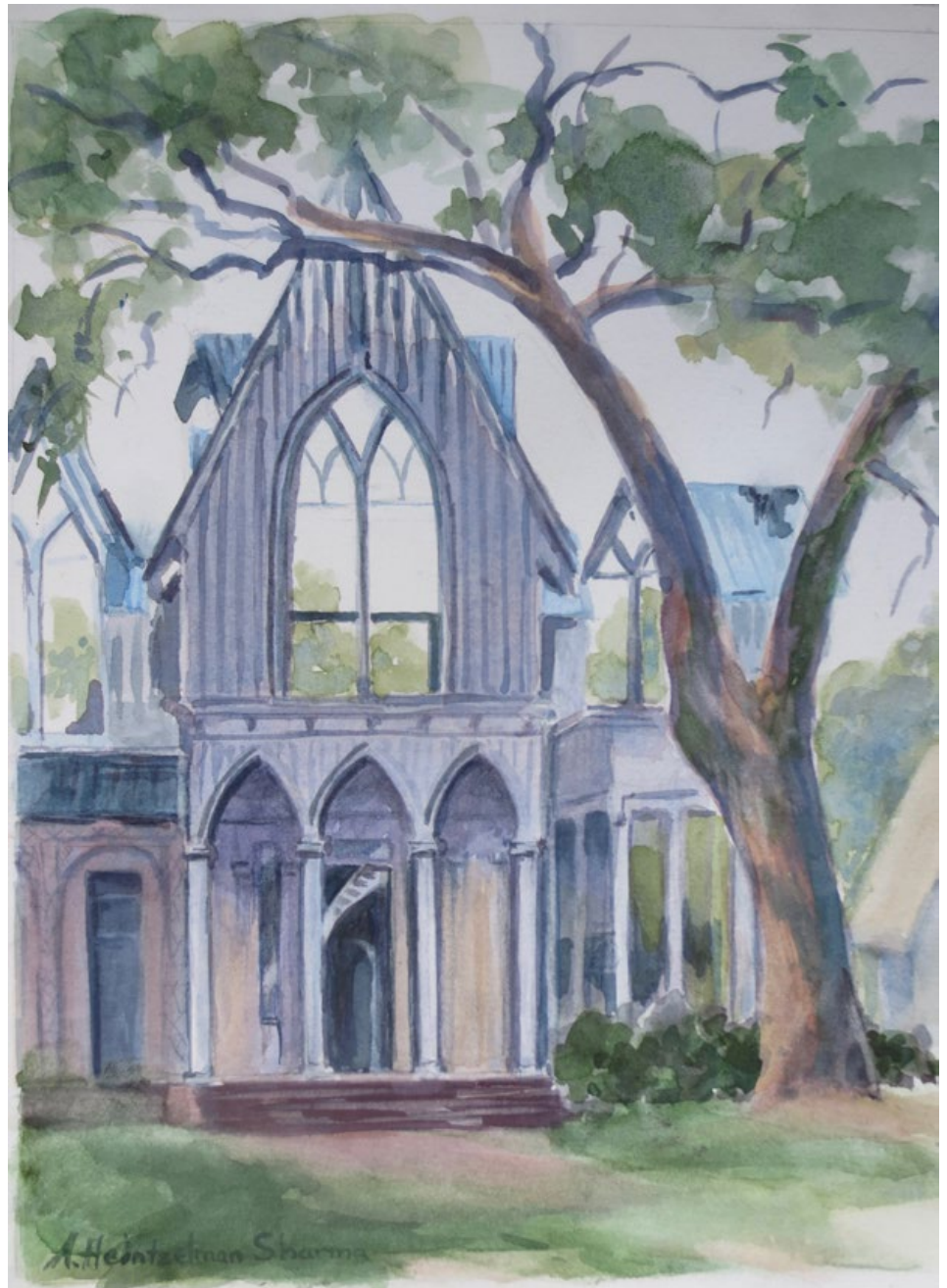


By Iva Roberts
Welton

Soon after we met, I gave Alexandra access to my extensive collection of historic documents and pictures of the two houses. Working almost entirely from black and white photographs, from a time past and scenes that no longer exist, Alexandra used them as a reference for her paintings, providing her with an intimate and alluring glimpse of forgotten and lost places. She says, “For Belfair and Rose Hill and surroundings, I wanted to be true to architectural detail while allowing my loose painting style to conjure the magnificence, loneliness and mystery of the place.”

In 1927, William Moseley Swain of Philadelphia purchased Belfair, planting the oaks which made a magnificent entrance. He designed his new mansion using oyster shell tabby, concrete and rebar. Unfortunately, the salt from the Colleton River caused the rebar to rust and crumble. He died in 1948. “Billy” Swain, Jr. was found dead at the bottom of the house stairs during a party. A murder trial was held with one of his best friends, Victor Strojny, on trial, but was inconclusive. Bluffton made the headlines in the Philadelphia papers. Local folks still have opinions about this incident.

In 1951, Walter Mingledorff, Sr of



“Life” — a view of Rose Hill; circa 1987 after the fire

Savannah purchased Belfair although the house was not habitable. He used the land to raise Polled Hereford cattle, the finest in the Southeast, hiring Texas cowboys to manage the herd. Later he experimented with white turkeys. Mr “Bud” Mingledorff, a family member, attended the Opening Reception of the Art Show and regaled us with stories of life at Belfair during that time. He was

amazed at how well Alexandra had captured views of the house that he thought he would never see again.

The Belfair house and property was purchased by the Weltons in 1982. They sold the house which the new owners razed, building a house on the same spot using the original four

[SHARING cont'd on Page 7]

[SHARING cont'd]

magnificent Corinthian columns which had not crumbled. In 1994, the Weltons sold the property to developers who retained the name, “Belfair,” for their new community.

Rose Hill Plantation, formerly part of Devil’s Elbow barony, was owned by James Kirk, the second wealthiest planter in the Lowcountry. Kirk’s daughter, Caroline, married her cousin, Dr. John Kirk. They began building a gothic revival plantation house at Rose Hill but it remained unfinished and largely vacant for nearly 90 years. It became known as “Kirk’s Folly.”

Kirk family letters, written between 1850 and 1883, were given to me by a descendant. I encourage you to read them to fully understand what happened during that time in the Lowcountry. Copies are at the Heritage Library.

In 1946, John and Florence (Betsy) Sturgeon purchased Rose Hill, retaining noted architect, Willis Irvin, to complete the house. The renovation closely followed the original appearance of the house but the interior was a “showplace” — with magnificent chandeliers, hand-embroidered drapes, hand-painted Chinese wallpaper, etc. It was a great example of what “northern money” could do with “southern land.”

In 1981, the Weltons purchased the house and acreage for development. I carried out an extensive historical research of the house and had it placed on the National Register of Historic Places. I studied restoration and preservation

Alexandra Sharma

Born into a family of artists, Alexandra Sharma learned early a unique awareness of form and space that is manifest in her work. A painter, print maker, sculptor, and art professor, Alexandra has a Fine Arts degree and has studied at the Sorbonne and Oxford University.

www.alexandrasharma.homestead.com



“Hidden” — a view of Belfair as viewed through the tangle of forest growing up around it; circa 1982

with SCAD in Savannah and in England. After completing a 10-month rehabilitation of the house it was opened to the public. In 1987, a fire destroyed the roof and most of the interior. The solid copper roof was replaced and the central staircase and many of the wall

studs were rebuilt but the house remained fire-damaged and vacant

In 1996, Rose Hill Plantation House was purchased and has been restored as a private home and open to the public for tours by the Middleton-White Foundation.

Wish List

As most of you who have attended our classes this year already know, our projector has all but died. It is eight years old and is not keeping up with modern technology. The estimates we have obtained for a new setup range from \$1,200 to \$1,500. If you have taken our classes and have thoroughly enjoyed them, feel they are an important Library feature, please make a donation to replace the equipment.

Donations can be made by check, mailed to the Library (address on Page 2) with “AV Equipment” in the memo line or by going online to heritagelib.org and clicking on the red MAKE A DONATION button at the top of the home page.

Your donation will be greatly appreciated.

Linda Piekut
Executive Director



The Heritage Library's annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon was held March 22 at Hudson's Seafood House.

The Winners Are...

The annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon was held at Hudson's by the Docks Seafood House on March 22nd. Lou Benfante, President, welcomed and thanked our volunteers, the largest attendance ever. Lou praised our volunteers, saying, "The expertise, commitment, and dedication of our volunteers as they work to preserve and protect our Island's history and its historic sites and to assist our members with their genealogy research is fantastic."

Lou concluded, "The Library is so very thankful for our volunteers, Island residents, community organizations and visitors who have helped us clean up the mess made by Hurricane Matthew at our two locations, Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery and Fort Mitchel."

PRESIDENT'S AWARD:

Iva Welton

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD:

Pat Burke &
Susie Marquis
Glenda Blakeney

President's Award

Iva Welton has been researching and promoting our Lowcountry history for more than thirty years. A Board member, she has been a valuable volunteer at the Library working in different areas, often supplying needed

[LUNCHEON cont'd on Page 9]



Heritage Library president Lou Benfante speaks at the luncheon.

[LUNCHEON cont'd]

historical data. Recently she prepared and presented an application to have Zion Cemetery placed on the National Register of Historic places. Iva is the author of *Sharing the Heritage* in the Observer.

Volunteer of the Year Award

Pat Burke and Susie Marquis have spent over two years reading and abstracting the Library's service and pension records and stories of colored troops from Hilton Head who served in the Civil War for a book that will be published in April. Deciphering handwriting, understanding Gullah dialect, condensing 60, 80, even 100 pages — all have required hours of hard work. Thanks to their dedication, the book is ready for publication.

Glenda Blakeney started digitizing the surname files in October 2014, doing the scanning on the Xerox for two years — a cumbersome procedure. As she concluded her project, a new scanner made her life much easier. When she completed the scanning phase she started a rather complicated process of creating the web page and linking all the files. Glenda emptied three file cabinets, 12 drawers of files, enabling us to sell two of the cabinets, opening additional space in the Library.



Lou Benfante & Iva Welton



Nancy Burke & Pat Burke
(Susie Marquis was absent)



Linda Piekut & Glenda Blakeney

Heritage Happenings

Reservations Required
Phone 843-686-6560 or online at
www.heritagelib.org

HISTORY LECTURES

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

- April 4** - Historic Sites
- April 11** - Pirates of the Lowcountry
- April 18** - Mitchelville
- April 25** - Gullah Culture
- May 2** - Early Explorers
- May 9** - Santa Elena
- May 16** - Pedro Menendez: "The Last Crusader"
- May 23** - Role of Women in the history and development of HHI
- May 30** - Sea Pines 1950-1985
- June 6** - HHI in the Civil War
- June 13** - Battle of Fort Pulaski
- June 20** - Cemeteries of HHI
- June 27** - Historic Sites

Donations

IN MEMORY OF:

Larry Burke - from:

- Sheila and Robert Buck
- Laurie and Tom Burke
- Nancy and Joe Burke
- Jay Coleman
- Carol Hamilton
- Mr. and Mrs. K. Bailey Keeling
- Diana Luellen
- Pre and Gary Moore
- Victor Riley
- Washington Community Reinvestment Association

Roy Winkler - from:

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IN HONOR OF:

Robert Peeples - from:

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Linda Piekut - from:

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THE IRISH GENEALOGY GROUP

Second Friday of the Month
at the Library, 10am-Noon
September through May
No Fee

Reservations Requested:
JaneHHI@aol.com

- April 7** - How do we celebrate our Irish heritage?
- May 12** - Irish Music

Presentations are followed by refreshments and a sharing of research experiences

Census Tidbits

We all rely on US Federal Census data when researching our family history. However, you may not realize that there are some census details which can impact your findings.

For example, suppose you found Great-Grandpa listed as alive in the 1900 federal census taken on June 27, 1900 but his gravestone indicates he died on June 3rd. Is there an error? Probably not.

Likewise, you have documentation that Aunt Sally was born on January 10, 1930 and the census taker dated his report January 21st. Why was Aunt Sally not listed? Do you have the wrong birth year or the wrong person? Probably not.

For each federal census, specific instructions were issued for census takers. However, instructions changed from one census to another. The 1900 federal census stated that:

In any city having 8,000 inhabitants or more under the census of 1890 the enumeration must be completed within two weeks from June 1, and in all other districts on or before the 1st day of July.

The explanation for the first example is that Great-Grandpa lived in a district with less than 8,000 inhabitants in 1890 and the census taker had until July 1st to complete his work. However,

the data he collected was based on the June 1st date, and not the actual date the census taker conducted his work. Thus, Great-Grandpa died on June 3rd, but was alive on June 1, 1900 so was recorded as alive even though the census was taken on June 27th.

Each census has a different date for the official count. For the last century the dates were: 1900 - June 1; 1910 - April 15; 1920 - January 1; 1930 and 1940 - April 1. The basic statement for each set of instructions states that “... *persons dying after (date) should be enumerated, but persons born after (date) should not be enumerated.*” The (date) would be filled in with the official census date.

Looking at the example of Aunt Sally's birth, even though she was born prior to the January 21, 1930 date of the census taker's visit, she had not been born by the official census day of January 1, 1930 and so would not have been recorded.

The following website provides valuable information to help genealogists understand information found in the federal census. Remember, though, that the actual census is not on this site.

https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/census_instruction

Go to the site and click on the tab

that says “Through the Decades.” From the drop down, select your preference to find the questionnaires, census instructions, and even images from the time period. Once you make your selection, click on the census year on the left.

The instructions for the census takers include interesting information including the use of interpreters and the differences between occupations as coal miner vs quarryman vs miner of ores and seamstress vs dressmaker vs tailor.

Remember that a census is released 72 years after it was taken. Desperately need information from the 1950-2010 period; censuses not yet available? There is a possible way to obtain what you need.

From the screen on the side, select the “Genealogy” tab, located to the right of “Through the Decades.” From the drop down, select “Decennial Census Records.” Read the information and select the link to Form BC-600. To obtain information you must be a person listed in the census or an heir of a listed person. You must know where the individual lived, be able to supply additional information, and pay a \$65 fee. If you have a brick wall and have the information required for the BC-600 form, this might be a way for you to get the information you need.

Have a question? Email Carol at clemens318@roadrunner.com.



By Carol Clemens

Family Tree Maker

There still are many misconceptions about Family Tree Maker genealogy software. No, it has not disappeared. It was purchased by the company that had been making the Mac version. If you have ever used any version of Family Tree Maker software, please follow this link — http://www.mackiev.com/familytreemaker/ftm3/already_have.html — to learn more about the free update and how you can replace an older version of the program for a reduced rate.

You MUST sign up first in order to receive the free update. Once you sign up, you will receive an email link to download the update.

If you do not have any version of FTM, use the clickable link below to purchase the product for Mac or Windows. http://www.mackiev.com/store_us.html?productTab=ftmbutton

If you have any questions, contact Carol at clemens318@roadrunner.com.

Heritage Volunteer

Sunni Bond (Winkler)

Our volunteer for this issue, Sunni Bond, is in the midst of writing her memoir, “How I Got to Who I am Today.” She has written her obituary but finds she has to keep changing it because more things happen that she wants to include.

Sunni started out life in Madison, TN, a small town just outside of Nashville. She received a BS from Peabody College of Education (now part of Vanderbilt University), a MA from Virginia Tech, and did graduate work at nine other colleges. She taught in several states and then in Fairfax County, VA for twenty-five years. In 1959 she married Thomas J. Bond Jr who died in 1997. In 1999 she married Lt. Col. (USAF, Ret.) Roy N. Winkler, and they split their time between Hilton Head and Virginia. In 2010, after being run over — literally — by an 18-wheeler on I-95, they decided they didn’t need to be running up and down I-95 between VA and SC so they moved to Hilton Head full-time.

While a high school student, Sunni was introduced to genealogy by her high school American History teacher and genealogy has been her passion for over 60 years. Her first husband, Thomas, was as enamored of genealogical research as she was and together they spent lots of time traveling to out-of-the-way cemeteries, small libraries, and dusty courthouse archives. Sunni was thrown out of one courthouse for laughing out loud when she read the stipulations in an ancestor’s will.

Sunni started volunteering after being challenged by Bill Alstaetter, “put your time where your mouth is.” She has completed many projects for the Library but her favorite job is working with patrons on their family histories. Two of her successes: helping an adoptee find his biological family and helping a gentleman reconnect with a relative with whom he had lost contact over 50 years ago.

Among Sunni’s accomplishments are:

- After having assistance from an NSSAR member in finding her first Revolutionary War patriot, she found eight more patriots on her own
- Volunteer of the Year, Heritage Library and Volunteer Genealogist of the Year, SCDAR
- Shooting for the first time in the World Skeet Shoot at the age of 72 (the oldest “first-timer” ever), winning medals, and setting a record with her son that has yet to be challenged
- Publishing her first piece of fiction



Sunni has been a Heritage Library Volunteer since 2011.

Things on her “bucket list”:

- Finish her 1890 census re-creation project. (See article in last October’s Observer.)
- Publish another piece of fiction
- Continue to shoot competitive skeet at least once a year and maybe even go back to the World Skeet Shoot in San Antonio, TX
- Return to Maine for fresh lobster every day with wild blueberry pie for dessert.

Sunni is eternally grateful for:

- the late Caroline Perry, the high school teacher who first got her interested in genealogy
- her late husband, Thomas J. Bond Jr, who joined her in their journey of genealogical research for 38 years
- Bill Altstaetter who challenged her to volunteer at the Heritage Library

Sunni’s second husband, Roy Winkler, passed away on March 2, 2017, at the age of 83. A career Air Force pilot for 26 years and a champion skeet shooter in his own right, he and Sunni celebrated their 18th wedding anniversary on February 14, 2017.

Sunni is reverting to her previous last name of Bond for legal reasons.

Heritage Library Membership



By *Laurette
Doscher-Benfante,
Membership Chair*

Welcome to
26 New and
68 Renewal
Members who
have joined
our Heritage
Library Family.



New Members

South Carolina

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Bluffton

Leigh Ann Bacevich
James Bowden
Elizabeth Forristall
Octavia and Michael Lewis
Marsha Wray Lowry
Sunday and Ron Molen
Julie and Richard Orr
Normand Thomas
Mike O'Shea

Hilton Head Island

Anne Bander
Jane and Anthony DeFail
Barbara Fesche
Judith and Thomas Grant
Suzi and Richard Huisman
Dawn and Jon LeChevet
Karen and George Loud
Jean Meaney
Betty Saunders
Nancy and Henry Schwabrow
William Wainscott

Port Royal

Nancy DePalo

St Helena Island

Victoria Smalls

Out of State

Connie and Jon Dykstra, Kennebunkport ME
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Renewal Members

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Okatie

Sandy and Tom Jernigan

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Barbara Born and Robert Albrecht, Madison WI
Lynda DeLuryea, Newton CT
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