



# The Heritage Observer

News from  
The Heritage Library

*Bringing the Past to Life*

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## The Historic Zion Forum

On Friday, October 13, the Heritage Library is hosting an all-day forum on the Revolutionary War in the Beaufort District. The discussions will explore our area's unique role in American history during the Revolutionary War and Plantation Era.

Among the topics to be covered are the Revolutionary War Trail, archaeological findings at Palmetto Bluff and the preservation of Gullah culture.

There will be an interactive discussion with presenters on a number of topics of significance in the period 1730-1860. A major focus will be on the significance of the Baynard Mausoleum and Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery and the importance of the families interred there.

Speakers include:

**Douglas W. Bostic** – has authored 26 books covering Southern and South Carolina history; one selected as “Book of Year” by the Foundation for Coast Guard history and two by the Wholesale Book Dealers Association. He is known for his gift for storytelling.

**Dr. Emory Shaw Campbell** – has been a champion for Gullah culture for decades, raising awareness of the Gullah's unique role in our area's history. He was the first Chairman of the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission. As director of Penn Center for 22 years, he increased public awareness of the historical significance of that institution.

**Dr. Kimberly K. Cavanagh** – is currently Assistant Professor of Anthropology at University of Carolina Beaufort. A Fulbright fellow, she has



Peggy Pickett (left) as Lydia Davant and Dee Phillips as Mary E. Baldwin Kirk. In the background, Tom Martin as William Eddings Baynard.

pursued studies both domestically and in the Middle East, proving herself in the classroom and the field.

**Earl Smith “Smittie” Cooler, Jr.** – has gained recognition for his work in helping to establish the Lowcountry Revolutionary War Trail which emphasizes our area's unique role in the American Revolution. He is a lifetime member of the Heritage Library and a past board member.

**Dr. Ehren Foley** – is a popular author and speaker with a body of work that touches on several crucial aspects

of our nation's history. He has authored several works and led presentations on South Carolina's history during the Civil War and Reconstruction.

**John Moore** – has 35 years of experience in structural design and project management, receiving multiple Engineer of the Year honors from the Charleston Contractors' Association. He has overseen several historic reconstruction projects of antebellum plantations.

[ ZION FORUM cont'd on Page 2 ]

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# Family Tree Maker Update

With the release of MacKiev Family Tree Maker (FTM) 2017, a few things have changed for those who are using previous versions published by Ancestry. Here are questions I have been asked that might be helpful to those who have not upgraded to 2017.



By Carol Clemens

**1. Syncing:** You can no longer sync trees unless you have FTM 2017. However, the new sync is much improved and I highly recommend it.

**2. Searching:** You are no longer able to get "little green leaf" hints in versions prior to FTM 2017. With the new version, you are able to set it

up for both ancestry hints and "little blue squares" as hints from Family Search.

**3. Should I upgrade?**

If you do not want to sync your tree and do not care if you get ancestry hints, you are just fine continuing with FTM 2012 or 2014.

You can still create charts, descendant reports, media reports, and books with these versions.

There are many nice upgrades in 2017 that improve the experience of using Family Tree Maker. On November 8th, the Tips and Tricks class being offered at the Library will include these and other upgrades found in FTM 2017. Sign up for the class if you want to learn more about the new FTM.

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[ ZION FORUM cont'd ]

**Dr. J. Brent Morris** – has had a career studying the history of the South during and after the Civil War with a focus on the African-American experience. He is currently Department Chair of History and Humanities at University of South Carolina Beaufort and has written and edited many books and articles.

**Dr. Matthew C. Sanger** – is a professor at Binghamton University. He is one of five prominent researchers of Native American shell ring sites, recently researching at Sea Pines shell ring. He is also doing research at Mitchelville and Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery.

**Dr. Mary Socci** – developed an interest in archaeology as a student at Princeton, earning a master's degree and doctorate from Yale. She

has worked on archaeological sites in Belize, Israel, New York and South Carolina. She has been Palmetto Bluff's archaeologist since 2004.

The Forum will be held at Christ Lutheran Church, 829 William Hilton Parkway from 8:30am – 4:30pm. The \$65 fee includes a continental breakfast, snacks and lunch. The day will conclude with a cocktail reception at the Zion Cemetery and Baynard mausoleum from 4:30-6:30. Meet one-on-one with the speakers while enjoying appetizers and drinks among the beautiful oaks in the cemetery. Lydia Davant, Mary E. Baldwin Kirk and William Eddings Baynard will be present at the cemetery, and the inside of the mausoleum will be on display.

For tickets, visit [HeritageLib.org](http://HeritageLib.org) or call the Library at 843-686-6560.



## Librarian's Corner

# The Herques Mystery

The role of volunteer at Heritage Library leads us on many interesting journeys. If you like solving mysteries (and sometimes finding a lot of drama), it is a role you might embrace. Here's one recent example.



By Pat Burke  
Library Volunteer

As part of the Library's Reconstruction project, we were researching the people who purchased land at Honey Horn. What we knew from Virginia C. Holmgren's book, *Hilton Head: A Sea Island Chronicle*, is that one thousand acres of Honey Horn, a plantation confiscated by the Union in the Civil War, were purchased in 1864 for \$10,000 by Ramon Rivas; later, half of the purchased land was sold to Ana and Robustand Hergues (sic). Coincidentally, we knew that a small coffin inscribed with the name M. Herques had been found at the Zion Cemetery. We could only speculate that the Herqueses may have had a child during their short stay on Hilton Head although there was no information to support the theory.

More research revealed that Ramon Rivas was a Spanish national born in Cuba around 1801. He was living in Cuba when he married Florencia Cenac and had three children, Ramon Florentino, Manuel, and Ana Maria. Ramon migrated to New York City in the 1850s. His name is found on passenger lists from Cuba to NYC.

Ana Maria Rivas was six years old when she moved to New York. There she married Robustiano Herques in August 1873. A New York *Tribune* newspaper article dated 17 Jun 1901 stated that Ana was the daughter of a wealthy Cuban planter from whom she inherited a fortune. "Herques was a hot tempered, extravagant man, and it is said, lived largely on his wife's fortune. The family was well known in Paris and at Monte Carlo where they were frequent visitors."

The probate proceedings after Ana's father, Ramon Rivas, died in 1877 revealed interesting details about the purchase of Honey Horn. During court testimony, Robustiano stated that a note for \$9,725, signed by Ana, was given as payment to Ramon for 1/4 of the land on Hilton Head. Robustiano further stated he paid \$2,500 to Ramon for another 1/4 share of the land. Ramon sold the other half of his land to men named Alvarez and Quintero who then, in turn, gave the land to Ana in payment of their debts to Robustiano. According to Robustiano's testimony, he and Ana later sold the land at Honey Horn for a significant loss.

According to a variety of newspaper articles, Robustiano and his brother, Rogelio, had many disagreements about Robustiano's

handling of Rogelio's inheritance and later business activities. Rogelio reportedly felt that his brother had mishandled his finances when Rogelio was a minor and left him without funds and he felt entitled to some of Robustiano's later earnings as a result. Robustiano did not agree. Throughout their adult lives, there was ongoing financial controversy. In 1884, Robustiano and Ana moved to Monte Carlo. Three years later, Rogelio visited one night and once again asked Robustiano for additional money and was denied. That night during dinner at a café, Rogelio killed both Robustiano and Ana and then killed himself. A maid witnessed the incident.

That wasn't the end of the dispute over the family money. For ten years, the estates of Robustiano and Ana were in limbo while the courts decided who died first as that would determine whether Robustiano's or Ana's relatives would inherit their fortune. The *Los Angeles Times* on 15 Jul 1901 revealed the decision that Robustiano died first leaving the fortune to a relative of Ana Rivas de Herques. "Nearly one-half of the estate was eaten up by legitimate costs," according to a New York *Tribune* article dated 17 Jun 1901.

While we didn't find records or testimony about Robustiano and Ana having any children, we did find an intriguing story. The coffin and M. Herques remain a mystery.

# Heritage Happenings

Reservations Required

Phone 843-686-6560 or online at [heritagelib.org](http://heritagelib.org)

## ANCESTRY CLASSES

\$10 members,  
\$15 non-members

Wednesdays at the Library  
1:30pm-3:30pm

**Oct 4** - Mackiev Family Tree Maker 2017 is Here! So Get with the Program!

**Oct 11** - Autosomal DNA-Make the Most of Your Results

**Oct 18** - Making Sense of the Census Records

**Oct 25** - Looking for German Ancestors? Research Techniques and Sources; Part I

**Nov 1** - Looking for German Ancestors? Research Techniques and Sources; Part II

**Nov 8** - Tips and Tricks for Family Tree Maker

Thursdays at the  
Beaufort Branch  
1:30pm-3:30pm

**Oct 5** - Free Research Sites

**Oct 19** - Researching Military Records in Fold3 com

**Oct 26** - Researching African-American Ancestry

**Nov 9** - Looking for German Ancestors?

**Nov 16** - Irish Genealogy Essentials

**Nov 30** - What Can Census Records Really Tell Us?

## HISTORY PROGRAMS

\$10 per person

Tuesdays at the Library  
10:30am

**Oct 10** - Historic Sites of Hilton Head Island

**Oct 17** - The Story of Mitchelville

**Oct. 24** - The Gullah People and Culture

**Oct 31** - Cemeteries of Hilton Head Island

**Nov 7** - Sea Pines 1950-1985

**Nov 14** - The Role of Women in the History and Development of Hilton Head Island

**Nov 28** - Native Americans on Hilton Head Island

## TOURS

### Bike

Wednesdays at 10:00am

Visit Historic Sites on  
Squire Pope Road

\$15-adult, \$10-children ages 10  
and over; no children under 10

### Ft. Mitchel

Thursdays at 10:00am

\$12-adult, \$7-children ages 7 and  
over

### Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery

Fridays at 10:00am

\$12-adult, \$7-children 7 and over

# Zion Update

The Zion Capital Campaign has received a very generous multi-year gift, \$135,000, from the Church Mouse Boutique Thrift Shop, a mission of St. Luke's Church. The Heritage Library held a celebration to announce the gift on September 21 at the Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery.

Saint Luke's has an interesting tie to the Chapel of Ease, built in 1788 as part of the original St. Luke's Parish. The Chapel's two silver communion chalices, which disappeared during the Civil War and were later found, are now being used by St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Pope Avenue.

Mayor David Bennett spoke, saying the Heritage Library's campaign to develop the site into a learning center "will help to highlight the Hilton Head stories that underpin our nation's past." St. Luke's pastor, Greg Kronz, also spoke. "The Zion Chapel of Ease represents the best of Hilton Head: faith and freedom."

Attending the event was Lydia Page Davant, the first known burial in the cemetery, presented by Peggy Pickett. Dee Phillips attended as Mary E. Baldwin Kirk, also buried in the cemetery, and Tom Martin attended in the person of William Eddings Baynard. They led tours of the cemetery grounds and viewings of the inside of the mausoleum.

Campaign donations are the stepping stones to saving the Baynard Mausoleum, the oldest building on the Island, and developing the cemetery as a learning center. If you have already donated, "Thank You." If you haven't, please consider making a donation at [friendsofbaynard.org](http://friendsofbaynard.org).

## Donations

### IN MEMORY OF:

**Dr. Robert E. H. Peeples** - from:  
Mr. & Mrs. E.W. Altstaeter

### IN HONOR OF:

**Jan Alpert** - from:  
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**Elizabeth Hanson** - from:  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Zabawa

# 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  
National Park Service / South Carolina Department of Archives and History  
Pam and David Schofield  
VanLandingham Rotary Club  
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Webb

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

Dori M. Dixon  
Carol and Ward Mathis

## \$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  
Coastal Plains Insurance  
Pam and Peter Cooper  
Lisa and Don Drakeman

Hargray Communications  
The Heritage Library  
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MAJ Enterprises  
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Carolyn and James Robinson  
South Carolina Humanities  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Thomas

## \$500 - \$999 Builders

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Womens Club of Sea Pines  
Chuck Yahres



# Heritage Volunteer

## Amanda K. Hughes

**A**manda K. Hughes, a member of our Beaufort Branch since it opened in May 2015, is our volunteer for this issue. She has always loved history and, looking for a volunteer activity in her retirement, she answered a Santa Elena Foundation ad for docents. While attending their training session, she learned that Heritage Library was opening a branch upstairs. So, Amanda contacted Linda Piekut and is now a volunteer for both organizations.

Amanda grew up in a small farm town, Wauseon, Ohio. Unlike most, she became interested in history and genealogy as a teenager. Her favorite class in high school was history. Her grandmother had a bunch of old pictures and Amanda was always asking about them which sparked her interest in genealogy. One of her genealogical passions is African-American family research. Because of slavery, it can be extremely challenging at times, but a very rewarding challenge when successfully connecting families to their past. She has researched her own family's genealogy for close to twenty years.

Even though she had decent grades in high school, she had no desire to continue her education at that time. She graduated from high school in June and entered the Navy in December of the same year, spending 21 years in the "world's greatest Navy."

She tells everyone that the Navy took her around the world and back again although not on ships. There aren't many openings on ships for females (although that fact is im-



proving) – it's a problem of berthing space. Amanda served in a couple of overseas Naval Hospital assignments, in Guam and Naples, Italy. Her most interesting assignment was her two years in Naples. She loved Italy and being able to travel around Europe. She was also stationed with the Marine Corps on Okinawa and with the Navy Seabees out of Gulfport, MS, an assignment that took her to Kuwait and Rota, Spain. One of her best duty stations was the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, FL where she met her husband, Jeff. They were both active Navy at the time. He retired in May 2006 and they were married that July.

While in the Navy, Amanda obtained a BS in Workforce Education and Development from Southern Illinois University.

Amanda's most rewarding assignment was her last tour, assigned to the Naval Hospital in Beaufort, but also working at the Parris Island base. Her title was Command Career Counselor, advising junior Sailors regarding their career

choices and duty stations. She assisted them with applications for advanced schooling and counseled them on the transition to civilian life. She also worked with the upper echelon on junior Sailor career issues.

Amanda retired as a Chief Hospital Corpsman in December 2014. She and Jeff had planned to retire in Pensacola, but fell in love with the Lowcountry and decided to stay. Amanda, Jeff and Dizzy, their bull terrier, live on Lady's Island.

When she retired she wanted to find a volunteer position which would involve history and genealogy and, happily, found Santa Elena and Heritage Library – a perfect fit. She is currently working on a project for Historic Beaufort Foundation for the John Mark Verdier House – basically putting together a history of the Verdier family from the antebellum years through the end of the Civil War. In her research she is learning a lot about local Beaufort county history and the wealthy families who lived there during the years prior to the Civil War. As Education Coordinator, she coordinates the genealogical programs given in Beaufort by the Santa Elena History Center and the Heritage Library – arranging schedules and instructors. She will be teaching two ancestry classes this fall.

Amanda especially enjoys helping patrons. She says, "When I get a breakthrough and connect a family of today with the link to their past, it makes all the frustration and hours of searching databases, cemeteries and such SO worth it."

# Sharing the Heritage

It has been my pleasure for the past two years to spend an intriguing time researching the Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery and its Baynard Mausoleum, preparing the document for presentation to the National Register of Historic Places. The 2.43 acre cemetery, owned by the Heritage Library, is located at the intersection of Mathews Drive and William Hilton Parkway. You may pass it daily but how much do you know about it? I would like to share some interesting details with you.

Plantation owners of the SC Lowcountry became very wealthy from growing a special strain of long-staple Sea Island Cotton. In 1790, William Elliott, owner of Myrtle Bank Plantation in present day Hilton Head Plantation, planted the first successful crop. Pluff mud and crushed oyster shells were the new type of fertilizer. Each year's crop was exported to Liverpool, England to be made into the finest of fashions for the elite. It has been stated that Hilton Head was the wealthiest area in the USA due to the demand for Sea Island Cotton and Ephraim Mikell Baynard has been reported to be the first millionaire in South Carolina

Zion cemetery, the final resting place for many of our early planters and their families, was located on the main thoroughfare connecting the plantations on the north end of the Island with those on the south end. This area was the center of the antebellum community with a Muster House, where militia men came to drill, and the Masonic Lodge. It was here that the Chapel of Ease was built in 1788, under the direction of Capt. Jack Stoney and Isaac Fripp. It was built of wood on a 40' x 30' brick foundation, beautifully appointed with an altar, prayer desks, pulpit, pews, and two silver communion chalices, engraved 1834, made by Barnard Brothers of London.

In November 1861 when the Island was invaded by approximately 30,000



By Iva Roberts  
Welton

Federal troops who set up a military base, the white population fled. An 1868 report by the Rev. Dr. James Stoney (1820 – 1870), rector of the Church of the Cross in Bluffton, states that Zion Chapel had entirely disappeared. Its Eucharistic silver and all of its furnishings were gone and the founda-

tion was plowed over. There are no known pictures of the Zion Chapel and its location on the site is unknown. We hoped that Dr. Matthew Sanger, co-director of the Public Archaeology Program at the University of New York at Binghamton who was on the Island this summer with students and their ground-penetrating radar, would discover the chapel site. They found several unmarked graves but no indication of the Chapel. It is interesting to listen to opinions on where the Chapel might have been. Do you have a suggestion?

Amazingly, the chalices appeared again, many years later. In the 1950's a gentleman was looking for a gift in an antique shop in Philadelphia, Pa. and purchased two very tarnished silver goblets. When they were cleaned, he was astonished to see the inscription, "Zion Chapel, Hilton Head." When travelling, he dropped them off at the parish in Beaufort since there was no Episcopal Church on Hilton Head at that time. When St. Luke's Episcopal Church was built on the Island, the Rector in Beaufort turned over the chalices. On Christmas Eve, 1964, St. Luke's held its inaugural service. The communion chalices were used at that service – and are still being used today.

The Chapel may be gone but the cemetery is a viable part of the Island's history today. Stone carving is an ancient art and grave markers often include willow trees, with and without crosses, and the carver's name. Zion cemetery has four signed head stones. The Kirk family plot has two obelisks. Obelisks were popular in cemeteries; considered

tasteful, use little space, and are less costly than other large monuments. The wrought iron fences around the Kirk plot and the mausoleum and the grave stones have all suffered greatly from vandalism and weather. Hopefully they will be professionally repaired and cleaned when funds are available.

The focal point of the cemetery is the Baynard Mausoleum about which very little was known until the Heritage Library made it our mission to restore, preserve, and protect this magnificent stone structure. It is the oldest structure on the Island, built in 1846 by William Eddings Baynard of the Stoney Baynard ruins in Sea Pines. That is a story for another day. He died just three years after it was built, at 49 years of age. Over the doorway in raised letters it reads, "Wm. E. Baynard: Integrity and Uprightness." The inverted torches on either side of the door signify a life cut short. Originally it had white marble doors that led into the chamber which held 20 coffins, four across and five high. Built in the Classical Revival style, we have been unable to identify the architect.

My research revealed that the burial cases for at least two of the Baynards, were patented in 1848 by Almond Dunbar Fisk and manufactured in Providence, Rhode Island. The castiron coffins were popular in the mid-1800's among wealthier families. It was thought they would deter grave robbers but the Baynard Mausoleum was vandalized. All the coffins, including some wooden ones, were thrown onto the cemetery grounds and, perhaps, thrown into the bordering Broad Creek as well.

These special cases were custom-formed to the body, resembling an Egyptian Sarcophagus, with sculptured arts and a glass window for viewing the face of the deceased. The Heritage Library is fortunate to have one that is safely in storage and we hope to have funds in the future to make it possible to restore and display it.

# Heritage Library Membership



**By Laurette  
Doscher-Benfante**  
*Membership Chair*

Welcome to  
18 New and  
38 Renewal  
Members  
who have joined  
our Heritage  
Library family.

## NEW MEMBERS

### South Carolina

#### **Bluffton**

Margaret DeMeo  
Margie and William Groves  
Michelle and Ray  
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#### **Hilton Head Island**

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Richard Davis  
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## RENEWAL MEMBERS

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### Out of State

James Lee, Oak Brook IL  
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Carol and Ward Mathis, North  
Granby CT  
Douglas and Lamar Webb,  
Tybee Island GA

## [ SHARING cont'd ]

In May 2013 a Historic Preservation Class from the Savannah College of Art and Design, under the direction of Dr. Thomas Taylor, performed a condition study of the mausoleum and found the building's biggest enemy has been moisture for many, many years. They measured and studied the state of the entire building and determined what must be done to keep it from caving in. The Library took emergency action: a tarp was stretched across the damaged roof to prevent rainwater from coming in, the door was ventilated to allow air to circulate within the building, and a tree canopy was

thinned to allow sunlight on the structure. A formal preservation plan must be executed to save it for generations.

In 2015, archaeology professor Dr. Kim Kavanaugh of USCB and her class cleaned out the inside of the mausoleum. The project was initiated to give the students field work experience and to give the Heritage Library a clean mausoleum. Much to our surprise, human remains were found in the form of a hip, vertebrae, ribs, and other small pieces of bone. You can imagine how shocked we all were. The bones are being tested for DNA to be compared with the DNA of current Baynard descendants.

Why not take a tour of Zion cemetery

on a Friday morning at 10 am to see the inside of the mausoleum and walk amongst the grave stones with a knowledgeable guide. At the Library you can view a big notebook containing articles about the cemetery and the mausoleum, put together by volunteers.

I feel strongly that we, as a community, have a responsibility to restore and preserve our precious history which, unfortunately, requires money. Please be a Zion Capital Campaign donor! Send your check marked "Zion Fund" to Community Foundation of the Lowcountry, P O Box 23019, Hilton Head Island, SC 29925

Any questions? Please email me at [ivasouth@aol.com](mailto:ivasouth@aol.com).



The Heritage Library is a member of  
the Arts and Cultural Council of Hilton Head

[www.hiltonheadartsdaily.org](http://www.hiltonheadartsdaily.org)

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

**October is National Arts and Humanities month and Crescendo, a series of unique art events, is the Lowcountry's celebration.**