



The Heritage Observer

News from The Heritage Library

Bringing the Past to Life

Vol. 5, No. 1

MARCH 2013

March is a Busy Month

Classes

These classes will be offered at the Heritage Library during March:

Create Your Own Free and Easy Genealogy Website

Presented by Carol Clemens, Heritage Volunteer
Wednesday, March 13; 1:30 - 3:30

Combing the Census for Clues

Presented by Jan Alpert, Past President, National Genealogy Society
Wednesday, March 20; 1:30 - 3:30

Genealogy on the Web

Presented by Linda Piekut, Executive Director, Heritage Library Foundation
Wednesday, March 27; 1:30 - 3:30

Fee for these classes is \$20 for members and \$25 for nonmembers. Call 686-6560 to reserve a space.

History Events

Tour Historic Ft. Mitchel

Presented by the Heritage History Department in conjunction with the Coastal Discovery Museum
Thursdays at 10:30

Register by calling the Coastal Discovery Museum, 843-689-6767. Fee: \$12/adult, \$7/children (6 to 12).

Historic Sites on Hilton Head

Tuesdays at 10:30 at the Heritage Library (except Tuesday, March 19)

Presented by the History Department
Free



2013 ANNUAL MEETING

Linda Piekut New President of HLF, Ezra "Cal" Callahan Joins Board



Left, Linda in a happy moment; right, Ezra "Cal" Callahan

At the annual meeting of the Heritage Library Foundation on February 20, Linda Piekut was elected President. Iva Welton, Vice President, Harry Eschenbach, Treasurer, and Nancy Burke, Secretary, were all re-elected. Barbara Muller is stepping down from the presidency to devote more time to writing and graphic art for the Library. Ezra "Cal" Callahan was elected to a three-year term on the Board.

We are all thrilled with the results of this meeting. We know that Linda will do a fantastic job as she has already done as Executive Director for the past several months.

We are also glad that Cal brings his love of history and his deep interest in Mitchelville to us. He was born and raised in New York City and moved to Valley Stream, Long Island, when he was married. Working in the City, he helped to construct many of NYC's landmark buildings.

In June 2008 Cal and his wife, Audrey, visited Hilton Head Island. They fell in love with the Island and four days after their arrival they bought a house. Cal and Audrey returned to Valley Stream, sold their house there in three weeks, and moved to Hilton Head in October 2008. An example of how Cal works; with efficiency and enthusiasm.

ELIZABETH HANSON, BARBARA MULLER

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Libraries in the Digital Era

Libraries today are re-defining their role in a digital world. Libraries aren't just musty places to store books with librarians shushing anyone who makes a peep. Libraries have become part of the cutting edge of academia, information management, design and Web technology. Their service to the public is changing but vital; archives such as ours still include extensive collections of books while adding online resources, old manuscripts, a large number of photographs, and access to a number of IT resources.

The Heritage Library is changing along with the rest of the world. We are increasing the number of online subscription databases available to our patrons, as well as adding more of our collection to our online catalog to make our holdings more accessible. We have re-designed our patron desktop and added many of the local historical databases that have been transcribed by our volunteer staff. Our website is an on-going project, and we keep our Facebook page updated (Don't forget to "like" The Heritage Library Foundation).

The Library is a beehive of activity this spring. With grant money from the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry and The Bargain Box, we are full-speed ahead with our "People of Mitchelville" project. (see Elizabeth Hanson's article on Page 3).

The 350/30 celebration has blossomed into an Island-wide event with many Island organizations joining in the planning. As a fundraiser, the Library will produce a commemorative program with volunteers selling ads. The events will take place from Sept. 30 – Oct 5 of this year. Meetings, large and small, to develop this celebration are taking place regularly here at the Library with the Town, the Chamber, USCB Hospitality Department, and other businesses and organizations attending. These activities, along with our One Free Hour of Research Assistance are making the Library a busy, happy – and yes, sometimes noisy -- place.

LINDA PIEKUT



From left to right, Linda Piekut, John Myers, and Iva Welton, representing the Heritage Library and the 350/30 Celebration, at the Chamber of Commerce Ball 2013 at the Westin Hotel.

350/30 is a Celebration of History

The Heritage Library initiated the 350/30 Celebration of History to mark two important events in our history: the 1663 sighting and naming of Hilton Head by Captain William Hilton, and the 1983 incorporation of the Town of Hilton Head Island.

Many of the organizations on Hilton Head Island are participating and some of the descendants of Capt. Hilton plan to attend. A complete schedule will be included in a subsequent issue of the *Heritage Observer*.



The participating organizations include the Town of Hilton Head Island, the Coastal Discovery Museum, the Richardson Group, University of South Carolina Beaufort, Hilton Head Land Trust, the Camera Club, the Shag Dancing Club, Beaufort County Historical Society, the Mitchelville Preservation Project, the Italian American Club, Heather Rath Consulting, the Archaeological Society, Sea Pines Resort, and Port Royal Plantation.



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MITCHELLVILLE PROJECT



DRAWING BY CAL CALLAHAN

Editor's note: Volunteers at the library are researching available records to try to determine who actually lived in Mitchelville during the Civil War. Some of this is based on similar research already done; some of it will be completely new. Elizabeth Hanson plans a regular feature in the Observer on its progress.

The People of Mitchelville

Newly retired, one of the decisions Cal Callahan had to make was what to do next. Cal decided he wanted to learn more about his family which brought him to the Heritage Library. As he researched his family tree he discovered that the Library had a wealth of information – and – also discovered that the Library was not well known on the Island. How could the Library make itself better known?

At a party in 2012 Cal and other guests began bouncing off ideas on how to publicize both the Heritage Library and Mitchelville. They knew that people were fascinated with its history and the Library had a wealth of information on the historic town.

When the Union Army established its southern headquarters on Hilton Head Island in 1861 it had a problem coping with the overwhelming number of refugee slaves and ex-slaves, regarded by the army as contrabands of war. General Ormsby M. Mitchel's solution was the creation of a village for these people on the former Drayton Plantation. Mitchelville was established in November 1862, even before the Emancipation Proclamation. The first organized community of freed slaves in the United State, it had at least 1500 residents. Some observers put the count much higher. The residents built their own homes, elected their own leaders, and made schooling compulsory.

When the Union forces left in 1868, taking most of the jobs with them, many Mitchelville residents left too. By the 1880s the town had dwindled to a small community; relics of the town were still visible in the 1920s.

Barbara Muller was also present at the party. From that discussion a plan grew to try to find more families on Hilton Head who could trace their ancestry back to Mitchelville. (John Griffin of the Library had already

traced several such families.) "The People of Mitchelville," project, chaired by Cal Callahan, is the result. Cal is recruiting several volunteers from the community to serve on the committee along with Library volunteers.

The Foundation has received grants from The Bargain Box and the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry. The Community Foundation's grant is for a microfilm reader and recorder and for travel expenses for Mitchelville lineage research. The cost of buying microfilm records from the National Archives and the expenses incurred to conduct research at their site will be paid from this grant. The Bargain Box grant can be used to finance any part of the project.

Last year a group of Clemson faculty, students and community leaders headed by Barbara Hamberg visited the Library to hear about our Mitchelville research. Cal escorted them on a tour of historical sites on Hilton Head Island.

This year Barbara Hamberg again contacted us to say she will bring a new class of students in Pan African Studies (HIST 389), "Reconstructing Historic Mitchelville Using the Basic Tools of Sociology and Genealogy to Gain a Better Knowledge of Life in an Historic Black Community." The text they will use is *Rehearsal for Reconstruction: The Port Royal Experiment* by Willie Lee Rose; several copies are available in the Library. The three-semester class will include research at the Heritage Library. Each student will be paired with one or more members of the local African-American community who will share their family oral histories; together they will discuss the construction and demise of Mitchelville and trace the Islander's family tree to see if a Mitchelville resident was an ancestor.

Several members of the class will visit the Island from March 16th to 24th. They will conduct research at the Library and work with their African-American partners. Monday morning will start with an information session at the Library and Heritage librarians will work with the students on Monday and Tuesday, helping with their research. On Wednesday Cal will take them on a tour of the Mitchelville site.

There are many local sources of information. Hilton Head African-American churches are rich sources with their baptismal, wedding, and death records. First African Baptist was founded 150 years ago; Queen

Con't on Page 6

A SOURCE OF CONFUSION TO GENEALOGISTS

Messages from BackUpMyTree and MyHeritage

In the November 2010 issue of The Heritage Observer, I wrote an article on a free, easy way to keep your tree backed up off-site by using BackUpMyTree.com. (<https://www.backupmytree.com>).

There have been some changes so I am updating this information. BackUpMyTree (BUMT) was purchased by MyHeritage.com in the fall of 2011. Now, users of the BUMT service are getting emails from MyHeritage that may be confusing.

The good news is that MyHeritage is continuing to offer the free BUMT service. If you use BUMT or want to sign up for it, it should be OK. BUMT simply takes the trees you have on your computer in Family Tree Maker, or a similar program, and makes a backup copy in the cloud. Thus, your tree is on your computer and also stored externally.

Updating is automatic; you do not have to remember to do anything. No one can access your tree but you. If you lose the copy on your desktop, or your computer crashes, you can download the off-site copy to your computer thus restoring your data. There is no size limit and no limit to the number of trees you can back up. This is a very safe, easy, and automatic backup system for your genealogy.

BUMT currently does not back up photos.

Offers From MyHeritage

If you use BUMT, you may receive an email from MyHeritage telling you they will continue the free BUMT service. They also offer you “three free years” of their Premium Plus service. This is where the confusion sets in. MyHeritage is “an online service that allows members to create profiles and family sites in order to build and print their family trees, share family photos, keep in touch with family members, and research their family history with advanced research tools.”

It is *not* a backup service.

MyHeritage takes your BackUpMyTree copy of trees (under 250 people) and changes the format which is posted on-line. Once your tree is posted, you can add to it on the posted site. You can allow others access or you can privatize your site so that it cannot be accessed by search engines or by any other means. Thus MyHer-

itage is an *on-line tree service* similar to posting your tree publicly on Ancestry.com.

To add to the confusion, if you use the MyHeritage service **only**, the tree created on the site to which you can add data will *not* be on your computer; it will exist only in the cloud. If you want your MyHeritage tree on your hard drive, they offer a free software download called Family Tree Builder.

However, if you already have a genealogy software program, this seems unnecessary since you would end up duplicating your work.

I suggest continuing with BUMT as an option, but am hesitant to embrace MyHeritage for these reasons.

1. My opinion is that MyHeritage is trying to lure BUMT customers to their paid service and to switch to their software.
2. Though you can get their Premium Plus service free for three years it will cost you after that. They state “After three years the benefit will end, and if you wish, you will be able to purchase a subscription in order to continue the new family site or do nothing and let it expire.”
3. If you dig deeper you find that trees of over 250 people *require* a paid plan when the free period ends. So, you can post your work free for three years but must pay yearly fees of \$85 or \$125 to continue sharing your 250-plus trees on their site. If you do not pay, it appears that you lose your trees. You can post your trees for free on Ancestry and there is no size limit.
4. MyHeritage is not a backup. They state that if you use their free software, “We advise that you frequently back up your family tree from Family Tree Builder (their software) to removable media.”
5. This is an international company and I had difficulty contacting them. No phone number is given. I did use their forum to contact the company and asked to be completely removed. That does seem to have worked.

Considerations for Using MyHeritage

Before signing up for MyHeritage, I suggest you consider:

1. If you already have a good genealogy program such as Family Tree Maker, you are able to share/back up your tree for free on Ancestry through your Family Tree Maker software.

2. Use a good genealogy software program on your computer and then back it up in multiple locations. I keep backup copies of my trees on all of the following; flash drives, my desktop computer, my laptop, the free DropBox service, paid subscription to Carbonite (about \$60 per year) that backs up all files on my computer, and on an external hard drive. So, my trees are safely stored in several different locations. With my multiple backups, I have now removed BUMT simply since I really do not need it.

3. No one should ever rely on a tree stored/saved in only one location. If you only have your tree on an on-line site, that is just as dangerous as only having it stored on your computer. One place is not good enough. Computers do crash and on-line sites get bought out, fail, etc.

4. You should always have a backup of each tree on-line or on removable media stored at another location. Look at the unfortunate folks in the path of Super Storm Sandy. If their trees had only been backed up on their own computers and removable media stored in their homes, they may have lost all of their work.

If you have your tree stored in only one location (such as only on your computer or only in the cloud) or if you have it backed up on removable media stored at the same location as you computer, *please get a backup plan in place soon.*

CAROL CLEMENS

What is the Cloud?

There are many types of “clouds” used in the computing world and the definitions are highly technical and useful mainly to those who work in computing fields. Here is a simple explanation from www.techterms.com.

“Cloud computing refers to applications and services offered over the Internet. These services are offered from data centers all over the world, which collectively are referred to as the ‘cloud.’ This metaphor represents the intangible, yet universal nature of the Internet.

“The idea of the ‘cloud’ simplifies the many network connections and computer systems involved in online services. In fact, many network diagrams use the image of a cloud to represent the Internet. This symbolizes the Internet’s broad reach, while simplifying its complexity. Any user with an Internet connection can access the cloud and the services it provides. Since these services are often connected, users can share information between multiple systems and with other users.

“Examples of cloud computing include online backup services, social networking services, and personal data services such as Apple’s MobileMe. Cloud computing also includes online applications, such as those offered through Microsoft Online Services. Hardware services, such as redundant servers, mirrored websites, and Internet-based clusters are also examples of cloud computing.”

BARBARA MULLER

Questions About Genealogy and Computing?

Contact Carol at cclemens318@roadrunner.com

She will be glad to help and your question might become the basis for a future article.

FREE ONE-HOUR APPOINTMENT

Time for a Genealogy Check-up?

Not a member of the Library but curious about your grandparents or possibly your ancestors even further back? Make an appointment with one of our experienced genealogists: bring all the names and dates you have for your grandparents and see what can be found. Sunni Winkler, one of our genealogists, says, “One hour may be short, but it is surprising how much information can be turned up in that time.” If it looks promising, and you want to go further, you can explore your options; continue paying daily fees or, for more value and fun, join us. The program goes through September and appointments are required.

Call 843-686-6550 for your appointment.

The People of Mitchelville (Cont'd from P. 3)

Chapel AME Church, 148 years ago, St. James Baptist Church, 147 years ago; Central Oak Grove Baptist Church, 125 years ago, and Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, 99 years ago.

There was a hospital on the Island from 1862 to 1868; hospital records examined by Heritage volunteers show that many Mitchelville residents were treated there. Other records available at the Library include data from local cemeteries and Army pension records for people who served in the United States Colored Troops (USCT).

The Committee's short-term goal is to find current Hilton Head residents who trace their families back to Mitchelville in time for the Hilton Head Institute event the second week of October.

The long-term objective is to publish the names of as many Mitchelville residents as possible and possibly find some descendants who long ago left the Island and may not be aware of the part their ancestors played in the historic event that was Mitchelville.

ELIZABETH HANSON



Sunni Winkler

Our Sunni was recently featured in the Fairfax Virginia Genealogical Society's newsletter.

Most of you know Sunni Winkler. She's the librarian in charge on Mondays and a frequent contributor to the *Heritage Observer*.

In addition to her work at the Heritage Library, Sunni is active with the DAR assisting prospective members with the requisite research and the preparation of their membership applications.

Genealogy is Sunni's passion. She says, "A day without a genealogical project is like a day without sunshine."

Editor's Note: See Sunni's article on Page 8.

The History Department

The Library's History Department hosted 577 attendees at in-house programs in 2012 and 572 attendees at educational events that were held off-site.

I thank Bill Altstaetter for being my mentor and sharing his vast knowledge of Hilton Head Island's history with me. Bill has volunteered to conduct tours and lectures this year if his assistance is needed and I am sure that we will accept his offer of help.

In January we added two new and talented volunteers to the History Department; Dee Phillips, a former English teacher, and Sondra Hardy, a Marketing Specialist. They are helping to create a new Historic Sites Power Point presentation. In February we added Ivan Bennett, a history buff, who has given presentations in the History Matters Series at the Country Club of Hilton Head.

We are continuing with our Historic Sites lectures every Tuesday at 10:30 AM at the Library and we resumed our weekly Fort Mitchel tours with the Coastal Discovery Museum on March 7th. Dee, Ivan and I will continue to conduct the Historic Sites lectures and the Fort Mitchel tours. The Historic Sites lecture has been scheduled at the Spanish Wells Club in March and at Sun City in May. Bill Altstaetter, Harry Eschenbach, and Iva Welton will be available to help with presentations.

The History Department will be working on several new projects this year. We will be creating a 30 minute Historic Sites presentation to be used in Hilton Head Island schools during the 350/30 celebration and Sondra Hardy is creating a presentation on the Role of Women in the History and Development of Hilton Head Island. We already have a booking for Sondra's new presentation at the September Zonta Club meeting.

We will be engaged in a marketing campaign to publicize and create interest for our programs among Island residents and visitors. We will visit hotels and time shares to meet with concierges and encourage them to recommend our programs to their guests.

The History Department will also be working with the 350/30 Celebration committee and with "The People of Mitchelville" project.

We appreciate the assistance of Heritage Library volunteers and we are excited about our program for 2013.

LOU BENFANTE



ISLAND PACKET

TO BENEFIT THE LIBRARY

Equestrian Exposition Fundraiser

The Heritage Library has been named a beneficiary of the Ninth Annual Equestrian Exposition and Polo event to be held at Rose Hill Plantation on Sunday, May 19, 2013.

Equestrian events include a Parade of Breeds, Dressage, Lowcountry Hunt Demo, Hunt Chase, Horse Racing. Equestrian events start at 12:30 pm and the polo match begins at 2:00 pm. General admission is \$15.00; tickets are available at the Heritage Library.

We invite you to purchase an ad in their program or to be a Patron to support the Heritage Library. We need your help.

Pack a tailgate picnic and have a wonderful afternoon. Call Iva Welton for more details: 671-4865 or the Library; 686-6560

From the Membership Desk

It is always difficult to follow someone who has been doing an excellent job. Following Gwen Altstaetter who did an outstanding job for so many years as Membership Chairman, is a challenge, but I am ready for the challenge.

Since January, the Heritage Foundation Library has nine new memberships:

Out of State:

Dorothy and Phil Schuette, Pittsburgh PA

From the Bluffton Area:

Donald Otto

Luellen and Douglas Robertson

Karen Salerno

From Hilton Head Island:

Mary Bartha

Sandra Kay Karmazin

Betty Lightfoot

Mary Murray

Bart Ruby

Renewals are coming in quickly and we have received the following:

Out of State:

Suzanne and Patrick Crippen, Centerville OH

Amanda and Bill Dials, Oak Ridge TN

Robert Malphrus, Troy NY

Local:

Ellie and Michael Agresta

Janet Alpert

Margaret and John Breslin

Fred Caswell

Todd Clist

Phyllis and Clyde Crimmel

Joseph Eagers

Howard Misthal

Sallie and Gerald Moore, Jr.

Barbara Muller

Arthur O'Neill

Linda Piekut

Linda Russell

Patti Smith

Judith Tyler

Fritz Voigt

John Witherspoon

Please tell your friends and neighbors about the Heritage Library's classes, lectures, and the Free Hour of Research Assistance Program. If you have any questions, email me at laurettemd@yahoo.com. I will be happy to assist you.

LAURETTE DOSCHER, MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

The Peeples Papers

[Editor's note: This is the first in a series of articles describing various projects that our volunteers are working on. Additional such articles will appear in future issues.]

I was thrilled to be asked to find copies of all of Dr. Robert Peeples' articles in our library for the purpose of pulling these together in one file for possible publication. First of all, I was personally acquainted with Dr. Peeples and Miss Cora, originally through my late husband, Thomas J. Bond, Jr., when he was associated with the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) Chapter on Hilton Head Island. Dr. Peeples has always been a favorite of mine, and Miss Cora's work with hybridizing camellias I found fascinating.

Second, I found Dr. Peeples' articles to be a great source of information about the history of the Island I have come to call home. While I am primarily a genealogical researcher and Dr. Peeples is primarily a historian, both of these fields are merged in his articles as he writes about the early residents of the area, events

which I had never heard of before, and outcomes of people's decisions often made with good intentions but with varied results.

As I sought out these articles in various files, notebooks, and magazines, I often found myself so immersed in reading what I was typing in a standardized format that time flew by. If it happened to be a day when we had only a few patrons in the Library, three o'clock would come long before I expected it.

Through Dr. Peeples' articles, I "met" people that I found fascinating even if I did not always agree with their actions; I find myself now saying, for example, when I drive on Matthews Drive near Marshland Road—"this is where the Big Gate was." As I drive Squire Pope Road to and from my home in Hilton Head Plantation, I try to imagine what it looked like when it was part of a plantation worked by slaves. I look at the Island in a totally different way.

I hope others who read this collection of his writings will feel the same way.

SUNNI WINKLER

The Heritage Library Foundation

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