

Walking Tour of Beaufort Churches

On December 5, the Beaufort County Historical Society will offer a historic tour of local churches 70 years old or older. Beaufort churches on the tour include the Parish Church of St. Helena (Episcopal) established in 1712; Carteret Street United Methodist Church, visited by John Wesley in 1737; the Baptist Church of Beaufort, which housed black Civil War federal troops; St. Peter's Catholic Churchyard (the chapel, being refurbished, will not be open); Tabernacle Baptist Church, where Robert Smalls, former slave and Congressional representative, is buried; First African Baptist Church, built by newly-freed slaves in 1865; First Presbyterian Church of Beaufort, which traces its history to 1912; and Wesley United Methodist Church, now celebrating its 176th anniversary.

The tour, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., will be followed at 6 p.m. by the Annual Light up the Night Boat Parade. Tickets: \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and students, available from docents at the churches on the tour. Or call 843 785-2767.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TREASURES

“What the Heck is This?”

Do you have an unidentified archaeological artifact? The Hilton Head Chapter Archaeological Society of South Carolina invites you to bring it to the Sea Island room at Coastal Discovery Museum at Honey Horn on January 29, 2010. “What the Heck is This” is the first-of-its-kind artifact identification program on Hilton Head Island. It will be similar to the popular Antiques Road Show.

Assisting with identification will be Jon Leader, who heads the Office of the State Archaeologist of South Carolina, and Eric Poplin of Brockington, who is well versed in the archaeology of the South, having been involved in data recovery excavations at the Combahee Ferry site and the Baynard Plantation House, among others.

There will be two sessions: in the afternoon from 1 to 4, and in the evening from 6 to 8.

Equestrian Exposition March 21

The Sixth Annual Hilton Head/Savannah Equestrian Exposition will be held March 21, 2010 at the historic Rose Hill Plantation in Bluffton.

The Heritage Library is a beneficiary and will participate by encouraging Sponsorships and by selling ads and Patronships.

Corporate sponsorships, an excellent way for local companies to demonstrate their community support, are available for \$1500 to \$6000. Such a sponsor can “own a polo team for a day.” All corporate sponsors are invited to the VIP tent.

Patrons can also enjoy the event by hosting their friends in their own tents, with special reserved parking.

General admission is \$15.00; children under 12 and active duty military are free.

Gates will be open at 11:00 a.m. Featured will be the equestrian exhibitions at 12:30, with Polo at 2:30. Please contact Iva Welton at 671-865 to be a part of this major fund-raiser for the Heritage Library.

There are brochures in our office that you are welcome to take.



A Patronship at the Equestrian Exposition is an excellent way to entertain friends. Several board members of the Heritage Library represented the library at the 2008 Exposition.



The Heritage Observer

News from The Heritage Library

Bringing the Past to Life

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SUPPORT YOUR LIBRARY

ATAX Hearing December 3

Thursday, December 3rd in Town Council Chambers at 9:30 a.m. Bob Smith will present to the ATAX advisory committee our case for a grant. It will be very significant to show your support of our application before the committee. Our proposal is not only vital to the future of the Foundation, but it also will demonstrate our vision of serving our Town for years to come. We have been allotted 20 minutes.

ATAX refers to the accommodation tax on room rates for hotels, motels and inns. The law provides that the bulk of the tax goes for the Town's public facilities that serve visitors, but a portion is set aside for those other organizations which provide tourist and cultural attractions. “Our Library and our historic sites are definitely an attraction for many visitors who appreciate the Island's unique history,” said Bob Smith, “while the unique genealogical resources at the Library draw people from all around the country.”

The committee in previous years has agreed, and allocated a portion of the discretionary funds to the Library. This year we are advised that the amount of tax collected is down, mainly due to hotels cutting their rates rather than any substantial drop in the number of visitors to the Island, so it is more important than ever that we have good representation at this hearing.

To reach Town Hall Center, exit 278 at Wexford Plantation, turn right at the traffic circle into Town Hall driveway.

Carol Clemens had a capacity crowd for her November workshop on making genealogical gifts. More workshops are scheduled during the winter months. See Page 5.

New England Historic Genealogical Society Coming Here

In a coup for Hilton Head Island, one of the upcoming events sponsored by NEHGS will be held here. March 20. The complete program has not been determined, but will include some participation by the Heritage Library.

Founded in 1845, New England Historic Genealogical Society is the oldest and most respected nonprofit genealogical organization in the country.

One of the speakers, D. Brenton Simon, is president of NEHGS and the author of several books, including *Boston Beheld* and *Witches, Rakes, and Rogues*.



D. Brenton Simon, President of NEHGS will be one of the speakers March 20.

Web Site Down

Temporarily. See Page 6 for details.

MEET OUR BOARD

Nancy Burke



Nancy Burke, Secretary of the Heritage Library's Board of Directors, is one of our most indefatigable volunteers. She may be found here not only several days a week, but also leading many workshops.

She is well traveled; she and her

husband Joe have been to over seventy-five countries. Born in Worcester, Massachusetts, of a naval father, Nancy lived in Puerto Rico, Washington, D.C., Hawaii, Virginia and again in Puerto Rico. After graduating from Mount Holyoke College she spent a year at Oxford University in England as a Fulbright Scholar. Later she completed a master's degree in library science and has worked both in public and school libraries.

After she married Joseph Burke, a career naval dental officer, there was more travel, to Virginia, Hawaii, and California. After Joe's retirement from the Navy, they moved to Midland, Michigan, where Joe established an endodontic practice and Nancy managed the office. Joe's second retirement in 1992 brought them to Hilton Head Island. It was here that Nancy discovered genealogy; she now volunteers several days a week at the Heritage Library, has been named Volunteer of the Year for outstanding service, guides many visitors in their efforts to discover their heritage, and is co-chair with Bill Altstaetter of the Library's Education Committee which coordinates lectures and workshops.

Nancy and Joe have two children, Michael and Kathryn, and four grandchildren.



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THE LIBRARIAN'S CORNER*



The Map Collection

Among the Library's holdings is a small but significant collection of maps, principally of Hilton Head Island, Beaufort County, and the Carolinas. They cover the years from early exploration to modern times and reflect the history of the area as well as

its geography. Some of the most interesting of local importance include the following:

- Map of Hilton Head Island, 1711
- Capt. John Gascoigne's Plat of the River and Sound of D'awfoskee in South Carolina, c. 1729
- George Mosse's survey of Hilton Head Island leased lots, 1783.
- Plans of Fort Walker, Fort Mitchel, and Fort Welles (the union name for Fort Walker) from the Civil War era
- Township maps of Beaufort County produced for the Direct Tax Commission (1862-1870) to assist in the collection of taxes and the sale of confiscated land
- Plan of Naval Battles in Port Royal Harbor, 1861.
- Plat of Roy Rainey's Property surveyed for the sale of his land to Thorne and Loomis, 1931
- Map of Hilton Head before 1861, compiled by Fred Hack in the 1950's to show the location of antebellum plantations. (Copies of this map may be purchased at the Library. Black and white, 17.5x 11.5, \$6; 20x16, \$8. A smaller color print, \$6; hand-colored, \$20.)

These and the other map holdings of the Library are listed in the Library's catalog.

**Editor's note: Our librarian will use this feature from time to time to highlight significant items or items of special interest among the Library's holdings. Until the Web site is back up, consult the catalog at the Library.*

A MAJOR EVENT FEBRUARY 20

Southeast Family History Expo

The Heritage Library will be a sponsor for this event, also have an exhibit, and our own Bill Altstaetter will lecture on getting started through census records. We are hoping for a substantial delegation to represent us; not only would Bill like to see some "friendly faces" in his audience, but we will also need volunteers to staff the exhibit.

There will be a number of other interesting items on the program.

A documentary co-produced by Darius Gray and Margaret Young, *Nobody Knows: The Untold Story of Black Mormons*, will be shown, and each of the co-producers will lead classes. Gray will lead a Beginner's Class on Black Family History Research, and speak on Freedman's Bank Records; Young will speak on the westward migration of black Mormons and creative writing.

"As one of the sponsors we should have a first-class representation."

BILL ALTSTAETTER

Scott R. Woodward, whose work on DNA has been featured both nationally and internationally on numerous programs including Good Morning America, and the Discovery, History and Learning Channels, will speak on understanding DNA.

Jan Alpert, President of National Genealogical Society will lecture on vital records and substitutes for them. Charles R. Bourland will speak on getting started in genealogy; Sharon Lee will discuss little-known sources of information, and Howard Wright will speak on researching the history of black slaves.

Among the booths will be one offering free DNA tests.

MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS



Judi Dudley Romeo

Judi first became acquainted with the Heritage Library in 2001. Born in Texas, she had lived in New Jersey for 25 years before moving to Hilton Head Island in 1999.

She had always believed she had a connection to the American Revolutionary War, one that would enable her to join the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). At the Heritage Library she met Dori Dixon who introduced her to all the library had to offer. Since then, she has found numerous documents and joined not only the DAR but also the Magna Charta, the Jamestown Society, Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims, Colonial Dames of the XVII Century, and Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

Judi's cousin from Rancho Mirage, California, Carolyn Mayes, likes to visit Hilton Head. According to Judi, they always find time to go to the Library. Carolyn says, "We don't have anything like this. I love this Library."

Judi's current assignment is reorganizing the vertical files. She says it's taking longer than expected, because the files are so interesting, "I get involved in reading all the articles."

Editor's Note: Among the interesting items Judi turned up in her research is a connection to Thomas Jefferson's Monticello in Charlottesville, Virginia. Story in an upcoming issue of Glimpses.

Our Readers Write

"Glimpses is wonderful! So many folks working so hard on writing as well as their own research projects, and willing to share it with all of us. Truly a super benefit of our Heritage Library membership. ... The energy that all the library volunteers exude stimulates me whenever I visit and each time I read the newsletters... very dedicated folks behind the scenes."

CASSIE SANDERS

IN THE NEWS:

Gullah Museum to Restore “Little House”

The Gullah Museum of Hilton Head Island is planning to restore some early dwellings to recreate what life was like on the Island before the bridges. (*Island Packet*, October 16, 2009.)

The property is owned by Louise Cohen, well known for her activities in preserving Gullah culture through story-telling and the founding of the Gullah Museum.

The property to be restored is familiar to many Islanders: a small tin-roofed house on Gumtree Road, which, according to the *Island Packet*, is “one of the most photographed structures on Hilton Head Island.”

The property was once owned by Cohen’s great-grandfather, William Simmons. Simmons had been a slave on the Barnwell Plantation on Lady’s Island. During the Civil War he came to Hilton Head Island where he enlisted in Company B, 21st U.S. Colored Troops. After the war, he made Hilton Head Island his home. In the 1920s he built the present structure, known as Little House.

Simmons’ story was unearthed by our John Griffin by digging through old pension and other records. Louise Cohen said, chuckling as she recalled the time Griffin established her great grandfather’s slave history, “I think he was as excited as I was.”

HERITAGE LIBRARY A SPONSOR

John Griffin to Speak At Gullah Celebration

At the 14th Annual Hilton Head Gullah Celebration in February, John Griffin, who has done so much to help descendants of former slaves find their roots, will talk about his work and that of the Library. One of the subjects he will cover is the search for Mabel Singleton, “the girl next door” who married William Aiken. [See “How John Griffin Found Moses Aiken,” *Heritage Observer*, September 2009.]

Date is to be announced; more information in our next issue.

COMING:

An All-New Web Site

Many of you who have attempted to thread the maze that was our Web site have been confused and frustrated by the difficulty in finding what you wanted. As it grew, with a huge number of additions over the years, it was increasingly difficult to place new material so that a researcher could easily find it. And that defeated the very purpose of having a Web site.

Now that the Foundation is growing the history components of the Library’s holdings and databases, while continuing to build our genealogy components, it has become even more important that we make the site more user-friendly.

As we began a study for possible revision, updates, and corrections, the conclusion was quickly reached that the most effective solution was to start anew with up-to-date technology, improved accessibility, and better graphics. With the help of professionals, an intense effort to accomplish this is now underway.

Technical complications have made it necessary for us to take the old site offline. We regret any inconvenience this may cause, but we hope that the new site will serve you much better. Those of you who have paid extra for Premiere Membership will have your membership renewal adjusted to compensate for the lost accessibility during this period.

Our Web site is not only a convenience for our members, but is also a powerful exponent of Hilton Head history and culture. It is our hope to present an attractive and interesting face for our Foundation and town to the rest of the world.

Editor’s Note: During the interim, as the new site is being developed, you can search our records at the Library. A number of computers are available, and all will still have the present information available.

Second Graders to Visit

On Wednesday, February 3, second-graders from Hilton Head Preparatory School will visit the Heritage Library to learn about the history of their family.

It is part of an innovative program developed by the Coastal Discovery Museum and the Lower School. More details in our next issue.

MEET OUR TEACHERS



Linda Piekut

Linda Piekut, who is teaching our February class about researching genealogy online, is one of our valued “snowbirds” who spends the winter in Hilton Head Island. In her case, the summers are in Newville, Pennsylvania. Her BA in Education is from Eastern Washington University in Cheney, Washington. She taught junior and senior high school in Kennewick, Washington.

She is proficient in teaching MS Word, Excel, Power Point, eBay, Publisher, and basic computer skills. She is the past president of the Genealogy Club of the Harrisburg [Pennsylvania] Area YMCA. She is currently working on a history of Penn Township for its 150th anniversary in 2010.



Carol Clemens

Those who have taken Carol’s classes say that her presentation style is clear and concise and they always learn something new.

She has been working on genealogy since 2000. She holds a BA from the University at Albany (NY)

and advanced degrees from the University of Notre Dame (IN). In Carol’s 28-year teaching career she has been honored several times for her work as a Spanish teacher.

In addition to genealogy, Carol spends her retirement here in Hilton Head volunteering with VIM, the Boys and Girls Club, and pursuing her interests in photography and computers.

Editor’s Note: Carol has some beautiful nature photographs; see them at <http://carolscorner1.shutterfly.com/>

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR



There is a nip in the air and I think we are all ready for that and perhaps the clear weather has inspired some of our members to come by and continue their ancestral research. Some of the “snow birds” are back early – just can’t stay away. We welcome several new members: Richard Simpson, Nancy Wohlfarth, Paul and Marty Anthony, Frank and Patricia

Heim and Steve Prohm.

As usual we are still looking for more volunteers! There are a wide variety of opportunities – and we do need you to participate so we can continue to add to our Web site, keep our catalogue up to date, greet members and potential members with a smile, transcribe census records and other information we have collected into more user-friendly form.

Once again thank you to those of you who are renewing your memberships in a timely manner. We need your support and don’t forget to share your enthusiasm with your friends new and old.

GWEN ALTSTATTER

No Yard Sale Participation In 2010

Many thanks to those who have already volunteered, but we will not be able to participate in the “World’s Largest Yard Sale” in March. Something more important has come up: the March event with the New England Historical Genealogical Society. Although many details have yet to be determined, we need to be ready for our participation in the event. See Page 1.

An Event-full 2010

Jan 20 & 27: Beginning Family Research workshop. See Page 5.

February TBA: John Griffin at Gullah Celebration. See Page 6.

February 3: Second Graders visit. See Page 6.

Feb. 10: Southeast Family History Expo. See Page 7.

February 24: Genealogy Online lecture. See Page 5.

March 20: NEHGS here. See Page 1.

March 21: Equestrian Expo. See Page 8.

March 24: Family Tree Maker program. See Page 5

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Once & Future Zion Chapel Site

Millions of dollars of promotional advertisements bring people to live or vacation here on our Hilton Head Island. Almost without exception those ads proclaim history as an important attraction.

Yet, suppose you wanted to drive or take a bike ride to historic sights on the Island. Where would you go? You would find there are only four or five places on the Island that offer a genuine cultural experience. The Heritage Library Foundation maintains three of them: the Zion Chapel Site, Fort Mitchel, and our Library. The fourth and fifth historic sites, the Stoney-Baynard Ruins in Sea Pines and the remote Fort Howell at the intersection of Beach City Road and Dillon Road are accessible; and there is a steam cannon site and Fort Sherman in Port Royal Plantation but they can be seen only as a guest of a Plantation resident. The proposed Mitchelville site has future potential but there is nothing there yet to see.

All this points up the present value and future potential of our centrally located Zion Chapel site for the town of Hilton Head Island and for all of us who cherish history. The site was the core of the settlements on Hilton Head in the days leading up to the Civil War. The chapel was a wooden structure, 40 foot by 30 foot, built about 1786 and consecrated in 1833. Nearby, to the south of the chapel, was a Praise House built for the Christianized slaves to use as their place of worship.

Of course there was a cemetery next to the chapel, whose earliest grave is dated 1795. Despite the high birth rate of the times, child mortality and the incidence of disease insured that cemetery was frequently used. Twin Oaks, the Devant plantation, was nearby and the notorious 1781 ambush of Charles Devant, one of our Revolutionary martyrs, by the Daufuskie Royal Militia happened as he was approaching his home.



For Veterans' Day, board member William Leitner placed seven historical flags and 76 smaller ones in the Zion Chapel cemetery to honor the veterans buried there, including Charles Devant.



This Praise House on St. Helena Island is typical of the simple architecture of these structures. This photograph, with the Reverend Henderson, was taken in 1995. From the National Humanities Center.

Here there was also a Muster House for the militia, located very close to the Chapel, where training and drilling likely took place.

In the early 1800s, Freemasonry was an integral part of the lives of many of those plantation owners growing long-staple cotton. The presence of a Masonic Temple near the Chapel site indicates there must have been frequent meetings of those who owned or managed the Island's Plantations.

The exact locations of these buildings is roughly shown on maps, but ongoing research at the library is attempting to discover more precisely where they were and more details about their use. Some consultation with the State Archeologist has been done but more is needed using ground radar or other equipment. Cartographic research has also been done. Challenging investigations such as these keep our library volunteers intrigued.

So, a picture emerges of the Chapel Site that, once the hub or center of the Island community, today can help explicate history. Here at the Foundation, our vision is for the site to become the core of a Hilton Head Island's History Park. The outlines of these antebellum buildings can be constructed to approximate their size and their locations can be indicated. We would have signage to explain the significant activities associated with the site and buildings, plus pathways, tables and benches overlooking the beautiful marsh and the headwaters of Broad Creek. The Town's support for our vision is being sought, for we believe that the park can be a valuable asset for the Island. It will give the community and our visitors a wonderful place to learn about and celebrate the Island's fascinating history.

ROBERT (BOB) SMITH

Upcoming Classes at the Heritage Library**Get with the Program**

(Using Family Tree Maker 2009 and 2010)

Instructor: Carol Clemens*

Skill Level: All

Date: Wednesday, December 2, 1:30-3:30

For new users of Family Tree Maker or those with earlier versions. An introduction to FTM 2010 covers the basics of entering data. The updated FTM 2010 has a very different "work space." Easily prepare and print numerous charts and reports; instantly add on-line information and sources to your tree without having to hand enter the data. View timelines of the events in an individual's life as related to others in the same family and even as related to world events. Use maps to quickly plot the moves made by an individual. If you think your current program is "good enough," this class just might change your mind. Participants must have basic computer skills including Internet use.

Fee: \$25 for non-Foundation members \$20 for current members.

*See an introduction to Carol Clemens on Page 3.

Beginning Family Research

Instructor: Nancy Burke*

Skill Level: Beginner

Dates: Wed., Jan. 20: 1:30-3:30 Session One

Wed., Jan. 27: 1:30-3:30 - Session Two

This two-part workshop, designed for the first-time family researcher, may also be useful to researchers with limited experience or those who wish to refresh their skills. Participants will be introduced to the fascinating field of genealogy, its unique nomenclature and suggested research techniques, including use of the computer and Internet.

Fee: \$40 for current members of the Heritage Library Foundation and \$45.00 for non-members. Includes the textbook "Unpuzzling Your Past," hand-outs to help guide you in your search and, for those not current members, use of the library for the two weeks of the workshop.

*See an introduction to Nancy Burke on Page 3.

Genealogy Online

Instructor: Linda Piekut*

Skill Level: Intermediate

Date: Wednesday February 24: 1:30 to 3:30

An overview of genealogical research sites available through the World Wide Web. This lecture is designed for the intermediate genealogist: that is, participants should understand and have experience using search engines and Web browsers. They should also have a general familiarity with techniques for family research. Fee: \$20 for members of the Heritage Library Foundation and \$25 for non-members.

*See an introduction to Linda Piekut on Page 3.

Get with the Program

(Using Family Tree Maker 2009 and 2010)

Instructor: Carol Clemens

Skill Level: All

Date: Wednesday March 24, 1:30 - 3:30

For new users of Family Tree Maker or those with earlier versions. An introduction to FTM 2010 covers the basics of entering data. The updated FTM 2010 has a very different "work space." Easily prepare and print numerous charts and reports; instantly add on-line information and sources to your tree without having to hand enter the data. View timelines of the events in an individual's life as related to others in the same family and even as related to world events. Use maps to quickly plot the moves made by an individual. If you think your current program is "good enough," this class just might change your mind. Participants must have basic computer skills including Internet use.

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