



Heritage Library News

A PUBLICATION OF THE HERITAGE LIBRARY FOUNDATION, INC., HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA
HOME OF THE HILTON HEAD ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

History and Family Heritage Research. Study, Learning, and Preservation on Hilton Head Island and Throughout the Lowcountry Since 1961

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Winter 2006

Heritage Library News

MITCHELVILLE REMEMBRANCE PROJECT

President's Column

Bill Altstaetter

Welcome to 2006. We look forward to another exciting year of growth for the Foundation and its programs in research, education, and cultural outreach to the communities of the Lowcountry and beyond. The interest in family heritage and genealogy continues to fuel the expansion of our activities. We served some 2300 patrons and visitors throughout 2005 an increase of nearly 100 over 2004 and are hoping for similar results this year.

Information on a number of exciting new projects may be found in other articles in this issue of Heritage Library News so I won't repeat them here except to say our plans and programs are designed to appeal to the historian and genealogist in each of us. To the extent we have found an idea which appeals to you, please join in and enjoy the fun. If we

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Local Historic Preservation Groups Lend Support to Residents

Formed by motivated islanders, including residents of the Historic Mitchelville area, a new historic preservation group called "CCPM," short for Concerned Citizens for the Preservation of Mitchelville, has taken up the challenge to create a lasting remembrance of an important chapter in the history of the Lowcountry and its Gullah people. CCPM is the outgrowth of a series of meetings held over the last several weeks on the site near Beach City and Dillon Roads, of what was once a town called Mitchelville. It has

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LDS MICROFILM LOAN FEE INCREASE

Beginning January 15th the loan fee for microfilm from the LDS Film Circulation Service increased from \$3.25 to \$5.50 per roll ordered. In announcing the new pricing Family History Support noted that this was the first change since February 1997 and is needed to keep pace with increasing costs. It should be noted that the new fees still include return postage.

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THE HERITAGE LIBRARY

NEW AT THE BOOKSTORE

Just released by the Beaufort County Historical Society, *Historic Beaufort County* by Mike Taylor is now in stock at a special price for Foundation members of \$36.00 per copy. See the Book Review column for a brief review and stop by and look at the wonderful pictures.

A second release, new in the Book Store, are bound copies of the program notes and exhibits, for those of you who missed the Foundation's Scots-Irish Seminar in October but would like to have copies of the handouts. We have bound a limited supply of copies of the materials used by the Ulster Historical Society.

Copies are available at the Bookstore for \$15.00 or we will mail you a set for \$20.00 which includes the cost of postage.

As a result of the interest indicated by attendance at the seminar we have added a number of books to our Scots-Irish collection so stop by and see the newest additions to our book collection.

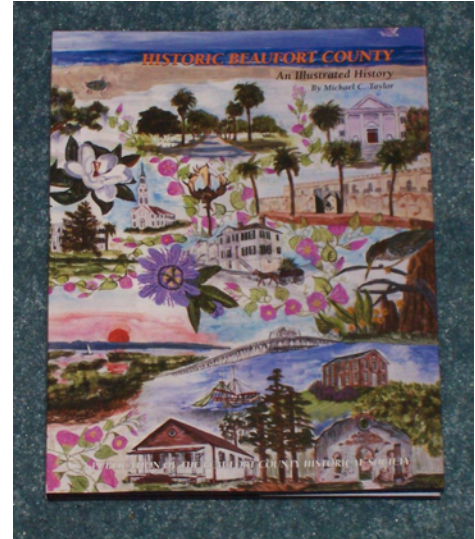
Book Review

— by Lyman Wooster

Historic Beaufort County by Michael C. Taylor, the executive director of the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust, is appropriately subtitled "An Illustrated History."

The history begins with an account of the Indian tribes living in the area before the intrusion of Europeans, and that chapter is followed by others discussing the rather brief appearance and minimal influence of the Spanish and French and the more lasting impact of the colonizing British. Considered in succeeding chapters are the relationships of Beaufort County to the American Revolution, the plantation system, the Civil War and Reconstruction, and developments in the 20th Century.

This is not a history that breaks new ground; rather it summarizes what has been presented in greater detail elsewhere. It would have been helpful to a serious student of the area's history if the author's



Historic Beaufort County Front Cover

source material had been listed in a bibliography or identified in a notes-and-acknowledgement section.

What is of particular interest and what gives the book its value are the numerous photographs and drawings; they underscore immeasurably the textual material. Old photographs of the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the aftermath of destructive hurricanes are especially impressive and informative. What is missing from an otherwise excellent collection of illustrations is a good map of present day Beaufort County.

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THE HERITAGE LIBRARY

*is open for research
four days each week—
Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays,
and Saturdays
Between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M.*

THE HERITAGE LIBRARY

*The Courtyard Building, Suite 300
32 Office Park Road
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THE HILTON HEAD ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Society Begins History Education Programs

The Historical Society revitalized its history education mission at The Heritage Library in 2005 with a “sampler” from various eras of America’s past.

We had a full house for the May presentation “General Francis Marion – The Man and the Myth.” Steve D. Smith, Head of the Applied Research Division, South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at USC- Columbia spoke on the “Swamp Fox’s” Revolutionary War exploits with emphasis upon his lesser known associations with the Lowcountry.

September saw the first of a series entitled “History by Hollywood – The Silver Screen Looks Back in Time.” The first film presented was the

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Attention History Buffs—

Have a subject for a program?

Is there an event from our past you wish to know more about?

Tell us about it!

Fax Bill at the Library
843-686-6506 or E-mail
bill@heritagelib.org -
Re: history programs

Mitchelville

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taken up the cause of preserving something of Mitchelville.

Mitchelville is named for General Ormsby Mitchel, the commander of the Union garrison on Hilton Head Island in the early months of the Civil War, who is credited with conceiving the idea of a “freedmen’s town” to house the influx of slaves fleeing to the Northern Forces. It was the first in the nation.

Peter Ovens, longtime resident of Hilton Head Island set forth the CCPM vision and challenge, “to preserve the Mitchelville Site” and “to learn from it how the first Freedman lived and flourished on the land.”

Bill Altstaetter, Heritage Library Foundation President in addressing the subject at the January 17th meeting of the Foundation Board, stated the Foundation’s support for the concept of a lasting remembrance of Mitchelville so that all future generations who pass this way may learn of the significance of the Mitchelville experience in the life of the people of the Lowcountry, past, present, and future.

Adding that he believed that it was an extremely important

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Profile— The Beaufort County Historical Society

By Iva Roberts Welton

The Beaufort County Historical Society is the oldest association in Beaufort County dedicated to the study and preservation of history. A member based organization the Society was established in 1939.

As stated in its constitution: “the purpose of this Society shall be the collection and dissemination of accurate historical data with particular emphasis on those of Beaufort County, the proper marking and preserving of its historical sites, and the study of history in general.” The Society also supports the South Carolina Room, which contains a local history and archival collection at the Beaufort Public Library.

The original charter members were Major George H. Osterhout, Mrs. Percival Theus, Miss Mabel Runnette, Mrs. J. S. Foster, Christey Cummings, H. H. Lake, Mrs. Chlotilde R. Martin, John Morrall and W. E. Nelson.

Officers and board members for 2006 are Iva Welton, Dot Gnann, Linda Hoffman, Julie Zachowski, H. H. (Bubba) Von Harten, Dr. Larry Rowland, Dr.

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Views, opinions, and conclusions expressed in the feature articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the management of The Heritage Library News or the Heritage Library Foundation.

FOUNDATION REVAMPS WEBSITE, ANNOUNCES NEW MEMBERSHIP— PREMIERE RESEARCH

A new level of membership is now available to persons interested in participating in the historic preservation work of the Foundation or using the resources of the Library for family heritage research. Beginning with the 2006 year renewing members may upgrade their memberships from Regular Annual or Family Annual to “Premiere Research.”

The new membership level provides the member with remote access to a special *Members Only* section at the Heritagelib.org website for the Library and Foundation.

For an annual cost of \$65.00 Premiere Research members, select a User Name and Password to reach the Members Only Section from the regular home page. This new section contains selected offerings from the rich store of databases compiled and stored on the Foundation’s server which heretofore have only been searchable from computers located within the Heritage Library itself.

Volunteers at the Library under the direction of John Griffin, Director of Research are continually culling the wealth of data contained in the Library’s holdings for information suitable for inclusion in the new Members Only Section.

In addition we are working with other sources of genealogical and historical data for permission to make their resources available through our website.

Existing Life Members of the Foundation may become “Premiere Research” members at no additional charge by contacting Membership Services at 843-686-6560.

Planned Giving Helps One to Give AND to Receive

By Manuel R Holland, CLU, ChFC

Manuel Holland is a Past President of the Hilton Head Council of Estate and Financial Advisors. He and his wife, Olive, for the past twenty-five years have owned Holland and Holland Associates, an insurance and financial services firm located at 308 The Courtyard Building.

We are often told that it is better to give than to receive and indeed it often is. However, it is even better to give and *to receive* at the same time. Following are some hypothetical examples of ways in which planned charitable giving can be a great opportunity for donors and for The Heritage Library:

John and Margaret want to make an outright gift to the Heritage Library and they need to realize the largest tax deduction possible for their gift. They have stock valued at \$50,000 with a cost basis of only \$20,000. If they sell the stock they will have to pay capital gains taxes on \$30,000, which will reduce the amount which can be given to The Heritage Library and in turn will reduce the tax benefit they would receive from a gift of the full \$50,000. If John and Margaret make a gift of the stock, itself, to The Heritage Library, they will receive a tax deduction for the full value of the stock. The Library can either keep the stock or sell it. John and Margaret will be able to spread their tax deduction over several years if they do not need all of the deduction in the first year.

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Feature Article — Some Historic Houses of Worship in South Carolina
A Photographic Journey Through the Lowcountry — Part Two

By Lyman D. Wooster

This Issue's feature continues Lyman Wooster's photographic sojourn to the historic churches of the coastal lowlands and sea islands of South Carolina picking up his travels where we left off last time in Charleston.



The Unitarian Church, Charleston, SC

The Unitarian Church in Charleston is another 18th Century church but one that postdates the colonial period. Construction was nearly complete in 1776 when British forces occupied the city and used the unfinished church as a stable. After the war the building was repaired and it was formally dedicated in 1787, which makes it one of the oldest churches

in Charleston's historic district. It has survived wars, earthquakes, and hurricanes (Hugo blew off the roof). Architecturally it is considered a fine example of the Perpendicular Gothic Revival style.

The early years of the 19th Century saw the construction of a number of large churches, whose congregations had been active in Charleston since the previous century. These sanctuaries are – more than 150 years later – still serving their particular denominations. Their number led Charleston to acquire the sobriquet “Holy City”.



Old Bethel Methodist Church, Charleston, SC

Old Bethel Methodist Church is one of the oldest church buildings surviving in the historic district. Construction began in 1797 and was completed in 1807. Old Bethel was founded by black and white citizens, and currently serves an African-American

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Voices from the Past—

“The history of every country begins in the heart of a man or a woman.”

Willa Cather 1876—1947



First Scots Presbyterian Church, Charleston, SC

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congregation and has done so since 1880.

First Scots Presbyterian is another of Charleston’s oldest churches. It was constructed in 1814, though the congregation goes back to 1731. The church was damaged in the 1886 earthquake and



French Protestant Church, Charleston, SC

dedicated in 1845. It was hit by shellfire when downtown Charleston was bombarded in the Civil War and was nearly demolished in the 1886 earth-



First Baptist Church, Charleston, SC

has also suffered from the region’s hurricanes.

The First Baptist Church, the earliest Baptist church in the South, was organized in 1682 and steady growth led to the construction of a succession of sanctuaries. The present house of worship opened in 1822. It sustained considerable damage in the Civil War and in the earthquake and in hurricanes.

The Huguenots established a church in the city as early as 1681, but the current French Protestant (Huguenot) Church, a Gothic Revival edifice, was



St John’s Lutheran Church, Charleston, SC

quake.

The first house of worship for St. John’s Lutheran Church was built in 1759, and the present sanctuary was dedicated in 1818. It was damaged by cannon fire and some valuable records were lost in a fire in 1865.

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St Philip's Church, Charleston, SC

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The present St. Philip's Church, the third St. Philip's to be constructed in Charleston, has served Episcopalians since 1838 and is the mother church of the Diocese of South Carolina, the Diocese having been established in 1680. It, like St. Michael's, was damaged in the Civil War and in the 1886 earthquake and in several hurricanes.

The Roman Catholic Parish dates from 1788

About the Author—Lyman Wooster and his wife Anne are 17-year residents of Hilton Head Island. They came here from Northern Virginia where he had been a civilian analyst of Soviet military and political affairs for Army Intelligence and the DIA. Born and raised in Western Kansas, he received his formal education at Ft. Hays State University, at the University of Pennsylvania—where he also taught Political Science, and at the National War College. He saw service in the Army in both World War II and the Korean Conflict. On Hilton Head, he has been on the board of directors of the HHPPOA, a member of a mayor's council that developed the Community Roundtable, and an occasional contributor of commentaries to The Island Packet.



St Mary's Catholic Church, Charleston, SC

and the current Greek Revival church opened for worship in 1839. It sustained some damage in 1865 and escaped with only minor damage in the 1886 earthquake and the hurricanes of 1893 and 1989.

The congregation of Beth Elohim was first



Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim, Charleston, SC

organized in Charleston in 1749 and is said to be the fourth oldest Jewish congregation in the United States. The synagogue, for its part, is said to be the second oldest in the country; it was built in 1840-41.

To conclude with next issue



Mitchelville

(Continued from page 3)

location to the history and heritage of both Northerners and Southerners, black and white, he concluded that it seemed imperative that some significant portion of the property located within the known boundaries of "Historic Mitchelville" should be maintained for the purposes of preserving history and learning as well as protecting the natural beauty of the area.

As the project moves forward, a team from the Foundation's HHI Historical Society will be providing research assistance, technical advice, and such other support as resources may allow. Any of the Foundation's members with a passion for historic preservation and education interested in participating should contact the Heritage Library at 686-6560.



President's Column

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have missed the mark with you, let us know what you wish from your Foundation and if you will help, after all is said and done, it is your foundation.

Turning to less pleasant matters of business, costs are going up for us as for other parts of the economy. The membership fees were last increased in January of 2003. While we have been successful in holding our budgets in line with this level of dues for the past three years, such is no longer the case. The Board in approving our business plan for 2006 adopted a new fee schedule which went into effect for new memberships and renewals beginning January 1, 2006.

The Regular Annual membership fee is now \$40.00. The Family Membership for two researchers residing at the same address is \$55.00.

A number of factors contributed to the need for these increases. Continuing upward movement in the costs of rent, utilities, and general business supplies was one significant factor. Our own success in reaching the forefront of family heritage research here in the Lowcountry coupled with the continuing rapid growth in the size of our collection has contributed to a significant overcrowding of our facilities. Those of you who regularly use our on-line computing area can certainly appreciate this problem. The solution to the crowded conditions was to acquire additional space adding further to our rent costs. When the new computer center opens in February you will enjoy more spacious accommodations.

Another major driver to the dues increase was the reduction in non dues income. While receipts for library services have

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History Programs

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"Battle of Britain" with a short talk before the movie and an English Tea served afterwards. The program commemorated the 65th anniversary of the battle between the air armadas of Nazi Germany and the men and women of the Royal Air Force, the few, to whom so much would be owed, by so many.

The second in this series, held in November, moved to the Pacific Theater of World War II with the movie "Tora! Tora! Tora!" After a brief presentation of background information the movie was shown and followed by discussion and refreshments.

If you wish a particular event or era spotlighted or have any other suggestions for topics or particular movies to

include in the series call the Library at 686-6560. We are trying to have one program a quarter and hope you will be there.

We have had a busy year and are planning more programs and workshops for 2006. We appreciate any input you might add and of course look forward to having you participate in the programs.



The Heritage Library is home to The Hilton Head Island Genealogical Society which meets on the second Tuesday of each month from September through May of each year at 9:30 am. and to The Island Writers' Network which meets on the first Monday of each month except for July and August at 7 pm.

Persons interested in these organizations may reach them by contacting The Heritage Library at 843-686-6560.

Planned Giving

(Continued from page 4)

Bill and Martha are considering making a substantial gift to The Heritage Library in return for guaranteed lifetime income for both of them. They would use money now in a certificate of deposit and they would be guaranteed annuity payments which are much more than the return they are currently receiving. In addition, their gift would provide them with a tax deduction which could be spread out over several years and a portion of each annuity payment would not be taxable as income.

Henry and Joanne would like to do what Bill and Martha are thinking of doing, but they know that their children will need to inherit the money they would use for the annuity. Fortunately they talked with their financial consultant, who is also a life insurance advisor and discovered that they could purchase a life insurance policy for the amount they would contribute for the gift annuity. Upon the death of the surviving parent, the children would receive the life insurance benefit. Henry and Joanne learned that the premium for the policy could be paid with the tax benefits they would receive from the gift and perhaps some of the annuity payment. Should they proceed with their gift, they, their children and The Heritage Library would find that to be most advantageous.

Helen found that after her husband died she had, thanks to his prudent management, more income than she needed. It was of concern to her that she was paying taxes on income she did not need. She did not want to reduce her estate through gifts because she wanted her grandchildren to be assured of money for their college expenses. Her financial consultant advised her to consider establishing a charitable lead trust with The Heritage Library receiving the income from the fairly large amount of money she would place in the trust. She would receive an income tax deduction for the income received by the Library. Upon her death, or sooner if desired, the money placed in the charitable trust would be available for paying the education expenses of her grandchildren.

The above examples illustrate that planned charitable giving can be an important part of ones financial and estate planning. Anyone interested in such planned giving should consult their personal financial advisor.

For more information on planned giving program at The Heritage Library Foundation contact the Treasurer at 843-686-6560

Book Review

(Continued from page 2)

The concluding section of the history is entitled Sharing the Heritage; it contains profiles of businesses, offices, and organizations that are said to have contributed to the economy and development of the county. Regrettably, it is not a complete account of all the offices, organizations, and individuals that contributed so much to the welfare of Beaufort County. Churches are another omission, in fact religion, which had a major role in the county's development, is treated rather indifferently throughout this book.

Historic Beaufort County is not a scholarly treatise and is not meant to be one. Its illustrations and beautiful jacket, a collage of county buildings and sites, by Hilton Head Island artist, Mira Scott, make it an attractive volume that should have a prominent place on one's coffee table.

President's Column

(Continued from page 8)

increased year over year, the response from the membership in 2005 to the appeal for annual operating and capital funding has been particularly disappointing. A total \$21,000 was raised for operations, well short of the \$35,000 goal. Of the \$15,000 goal for capital and endowments only \$10,000 was raised. Also there will be no ATAC funding in 2006. We hope to remedy this in 2007, but there is no assurance of success.

In an effort to make membership in the Foundation of even greater value to our current membership a new class of membership has been created designed to appeal to persons wishing to research the databases of The Heritage Library on line from their home computer. See separate article for details.

Best wishes for the New Year and many successful searches. See you at the library!

Coming Events at the Library

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

As provided in the By-Laws of the Foundation, the Annual Meeting of The Heritage Library Foundation, Inc. will be held in the Library at 32 Office Park Road, Suite 300, Hilton Head Island, SC at

10 A.M.
Wednesday
February 15, 2006

Members and friends are encouraged to attend.

Please return the enclosed Proxy form and include your reservation request to the Secretary of the Foundation.

YARD SALE TIME AGAIN !

Saturday, March 11, 2006

Once again, Foundation volunteers will be participating in The World's Largest Yard Sale sponsored by The Island Packet. To make a success of this venture we need to have items to sell.

We accept most items accumulating throughout the household. NO CLOTHING OR HARD BACK BOOKS (cookbooks are the exception). We are starting to collect items now, but if you can store them until closer to the sale day we would appreciate it, but let us know you will have things for us. They may be dropped off at the library or we will arrange to pick items up at your convenience.

Some of the things we have sold in the past are costume jewelry, paper back books, dishes, working household appliances, knick-knacks, and house wares of all kinds.

Volunteers are needed to help with pricing before the event and to help with the set-up and selling on that Saturday.

Call Gwen at 689-9558 or leave a message at the Library 686-6560.

Profile—Beaufort County Historical Society

(Continued from page 3)

Stephen Wise, and Mary Lou Brewton.

The Society holds quarterly meetings when papers relating to Beaufort and South Carolina are presented. Many of these talks are given by local residents and are held in the South Carolina Room. Among the speakers were Howard and Ruby Danner, Chlotilde R. Martin, Eliza Bostick, Brantley Harvey, Jr., Pat Conroy, Bill Marscher, James W. Busch, Nita Grimsley Theus, Evan Edward Fickling and Richard A. Whitney.

The Society encourages local involvement and is also active in erecting historical markers throughout the county. Among the sites memorialized are The Chapel of Ease; 1779 Battle of Port Royal; Old Sheldon Church; Fort Frederick; Pinckney Island and Charles Cotesworth Pinckney on Pinckney Island; Bluffton, S.C. and most recently a marker at the Old Beaufort College Building.

Today the Society remains an active participant in Beaufort County's historic scene. Its activities continue to benefit not only the people of Beaufort County but also inform the region's numerous newcomers about the county's varied and important past.

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*For more information about the Beaufort County Historical Society and its activities contact Iva at 843-671-4865 .*

# About Our Members and Volunteers

*from the Membership Desk*  
By *Gwen Altstaetter*

Since our last newsletter we are happy to welcome three new Life Members to the Foundation: Cathy Dahnoun, Dwight Wolf and Sean Wolf, daughter, son and grandson of our late Founder, Betsey Wolf. We are very pleased to welcome these younger generations of the Wolf Family and proud to share in the continuation of Betsey's tradition.

We are likewise pleased to welcome the Barnwell Family Association under the leadership of Tom Barnwell. Members of the Barnwell Association come from New York, Connecticut and South Carolina.

Other new members joining in the last quarter of 2005 are from various parts of South Carolina: Mollie and Ralph Green, Don Jones, Don and Karen Manson, Smith C. Roberts, Paul and Peg Whitehead and their son Alan from Arizona. Our first member of the New Year is Carol Clemens.

New members and member renewals are the life blood of the Foundation. Please remember that word of mouth is our best publicity. We are here to assist you in your search. So much information is available in the Library that it can be overwhelming so take time to contact one of our librarians if you need help. Whether you are new or have been researching for years we are there to try to make the search easier.

We are trying to keep our records updated, but we need to hear from you to keep the information accurate. Any change of address - or if you use a different address for any length of time other than your primary home address, let us know and we will try to be sure your mailings go where you are. At the present time we are planning to try to keep in touch with our members via e-mails with information about workshops and other programs. Please be sure we have your latest correct e-mail.

Once again welcome and good hunting!

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR EVERY ASPECT OF FOUNDATION ACTIVITIES

If you wish to feel wanted, needed, and special; give volunteering at The Heritage Library a try. For those of you just starting your search for family ancestors this will present you with a chance to learn from the librarians who are helping our patrons on a daily basis by demonstrating the many avenues of research we offer while looking for that elusive ancestor. Those of you who are more advanced will feel excited with the patrons you help who find that one special person who had for so long eluded their best efforts.

For those of you who like projects with a "beginning" and an "end" we have many just waiting for you. We are putting many new resources on the computers to make them readily available to a larger audience. There are cemetery projects, photo opportunities, writing articles and papers for publication, transcribing from original documents and much more.

It's not only the Library which could benefit from an infusion of additional volunteers. The Historical Society has opportunities for historic preservationists to help the teams at work on renovation plans for Historic Fort Mitchel and the Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery projects.

Heritage Library Press, the Education Division, and the Foundation administrative team all have "things to do" for willing hands. For the history buffs among our readers, here is your chance to revel in the past and at the same time make a mark for the future.

Two of our most recent new members are already starting. Mollie Green is training to be a research assistant on Fridays and Carol Clemens will be using some of her computer and management skills with new projects. A special thanks to them for jumping right in!

Many opportunities await! You too can help.

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***Have the Passion? Have some time? Willing to help? Ready to Volunteer?***  
**Call Gwen at The Heritage Library 686-6560 or at home 689-9558**

## *Future Programs*

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### **March 4th & 5th**

United States Colored Troops Celebration  
and Robert Small Memorial Lecture

### **March 22nd, 29th, April 5th & and April 19th**

Beginning Genealogy—Introduction to Family History Research  
Four part workshop series presented by The Heritage Library  
in conjunction with Lifelong Learning of Hilton Head Island

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