



Beaufort County Historical Society adds new Marker to the County's growing list of historical sites
See Article on page 9

Dream of America Stories Project - Adult Contest Winners Recognized at May 5th Finale
of the 2007-2008 HH Symphony Season _____ Page 4

Von Hoffman Memorial Bench dedicated in ceremony at Fort Mitchel May 10th _____ Page 5

Feature Article— Hilton Head Island's African-American Cemeteries—Part One
By Lyman Wooster, Staff Feature Writer _____ Page 6

Heritage Library News
is a publication of The Heritage Library Press,
a division of The Heritage Library Foundation,
Inc.,

Hilton Head Island, SC 29928-4640

Phone: 843-686-6560

Fax: 843-686-6506

Editor and Publisher

Bill Altstaetter

Editorial Staff

W. Lyman Wooster

Production Staff

Gwen Altstaetter

Contact us at—

www.newsletter@heritagelib.org

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, Inc.

Heritage Library Foundation, Inc.

Located on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina
Devoted to the study and preservation of local,
national, ethnic, and ancestral history

Officers

G. Norma Harberger—President

Earl S. "Smittie" Cooler—Vice President

Nancy M. Burke—Secretary

William Leitner—Treasurer

Barbara Vernasco—Asst. Secretary

Bill Altstaetter—Asst. Treasurer

Board of Directors

Term expiring 2009

Emory S. Campbell
G. Norma Harberger
Hunter Montgomery
Robert E. H. Peeples
Robert Smith

Term expiring 2010

Isobel Bitner
Nancy Burke
Earl Cooler
Ed Dwaschinski
Natalie Hefter

Term expiring 2011

Dr. William Leitner
Gail Quick
Dr. Larry Rowland
Dr. Harvey Varnet
Iva Roberts Welton

From the President's Desk—

A LOOK AT THE FIRST HALF OF 2008

G. Norma Harberger

It doesn't seem possible that we are at the halfway mark of 2008. I cannot begin this report without thanking both Gwen and Bill Altstaetter for their dedicated service to the Library over the past ten years. Bill retired from the Board of Directors and as its president in February. Fortunately for us, both are continuing to work as volunteers on the staff. We thank them both.

During these past six months life at the library has been active in many positive ways. Patron count has been strong until the recent hot weather arrived. Spring classes were well attended. In May we joined with the Coastal Discovery Museum in dedicating a bench at Fort Mitchel to the memory of Bernard von Hoffmann. The bench has been placed at Von's favorite site overlooking Skull Creek. (see article on page 5 for details).

Ongoing projects such as the research into the United States Colored Troops 21st Regiment from Hilton Head Island, continue to yield more information about the people and life on Hilton Head Island from the end of the Civil War to about 1909. This work is supported by a grant from The Heritage Classic Foundation. Additional information regarding area history is being added to our website as we acquire it.

We had the opportunity to be a beneficiary of the Hilton Head/Savannah Equestrian Event last March. Members took part in a limited way this first time and we were awarded \$3,650. If we are invited again next year hopefully more of our members will take part. Again this spring we took part in the Birdies For Charity program in conjunction with the Verizon Classic Golf Tournament. Only 29 of our members took part this year raising \$2,649. The tournament will add a pro-rata contribution to this total, which is likely to boost the total by about 40%.

There is a less positive side to the Library's story. That's the financial side. Bill Altstaetter presented those facts in the Library's 2007 Annual Report. Our expenses are mainly occupancy related: rent and the other costs that go along with it. Those expenses have increased faster than our revenue. They now represent at least 60% of our operating expense. They amounted to roughly \$54,000 in 2007. Fortunately several donors of our limited reserve funds permitted us to use these funds to keep us afloat. We don't have sufficient reserves to repeat that this year. Our expenses and revenues must be brought into balance.

Think of it this way: We are open four days a week—roughly 200 days a year. The rent and occupancy related expense amounts to about \$270 for each day we are open. If 200 members contributed \$270 or more annually, our occupancy costs would be covered. But 80% of our members contribute only their required dues—dues income covers only 20% of the library's expense.

Your Board is exploring all alternatives—one of which would involve a relocation to less costly quarters. In this connection, the board does not intend to take a step backward. Any alternative location must, on balance, be at least on a par with our present location.

To date the Annual Campaign for 2008 with a goal of \$50,000 has been supported by only 23% of our 350 members contributing or pledging \$21,965.

If you are planning to contribute later in the year please make your tax deductible gift now or send in your pledge now.

Will you contribute one day of research or do you know someone who will?

~~~~~

**The Heritage Library—A Center for the Preservation and Study of History and Researching Family Heritage**

32 Office Park Road, Suite 300—The Courtyard Building, Hilton Head Island, SC 29928-4640

**Phone: 843-686-6560**

**Fax: 843-686-6506**

**Website: [www.heritagelib.org](http://www.heritagelib.org)**

## *About your new Heritage Library News—*

*With this issue we are introducing a new style and format for The Heritage Library News together with a new system of distribution.*

Since publication began over ten years ago, production costs for quality paper and ink/toner have more than doubled making color printing prohibitively expensive. Similarly costs of distribution using the United States Mail are also continuing to rise. The current state of the finances of the Foundation require significant “belt tightening” in all areas of operations, this includes the newsletter. Thus starting with this issue Heritage Library News will be coming to you electronically over the World Wide Web. It will come to you in PDF format and may be opened and downloaded using Adobe Reader.

When an issue is ready to be released all “Premiere Research “ members and all **Regular members who have signed up to receive Heritage Library News and provided us with a current E-MAIL ADDRESS** will receive an E-mail message announcing the availability of the newsletter together with instructions on how to download it from a special “Newsletter” section of our Web Site ( “Heritage Library On-Line”) at <www.heritagelib.org> . You will then be able to either read it directly from your screen or download it to read at a later time. Using this method you will still be able to receive it in color. You will be able to either print it in color or black and white depending upon your own personal preference.

Printed black and white copies will be available at the Library and may be picked up free of charge . Also, individual “black and white only” copies sent by First Class Mail may be ordered at a price of \$5.00 per issue by calling the Library at 843-686-6560 during regular hours.

**Note that access to the Newsletter Section does not extend to the data bases available only to Premiere Members.**

You will notice a number of format changes as well. In an effort to make the newsletter more easily readable from your screens we will be using Arial Number 11 type for most of the text and will be limiting the number and size of graphics and photographs to facilitate downloading.

In place of the regular newspaper style of starting several items on one page and continuing them over to other pages throughout the issue we plan to present all of a topic together in one place and where necessary continuing it in order on the succeeding pages. The cover page will highlight selected articles in the issue.

We hope you like the “new” HERITAGE LIBRARY NEWS and will let us know how we may improve it to make it more usable and meaningful to you. Even if you don’t, we’d like to hear from you also. Our aim is to please our readers—most of the time anyway.

To reach the Newsletter Editor by E-mail:

<bill@heritagelib.org> - specify “HLNEWS” as a subject.

### *Operating Divisions of The Heritage Library Foundation, Inc*

The Hilton Head Island History Division  
Historic Preservation Projects  
History Research and Studies  
Fort Mitchel  
Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery  
Site Identification and Marking

The Heritage Library  
History & Family Heritage Library  
Books, Periodicals, Microfilm &  
CDs DSL Internet Connection  
Branch Library of The Family History Center,  
Salt Lake City, Utah

Heritage Library Press  
Specialty Book Publishing  
Newsletter Productions  
Book Repair Assistance

Heritage Library Workshops  
Genealogy Classes and Workshops  
History Lectures, Seminars and  
Conferences



## HH SYMPHONY HONORS WINNERS OF DREAM OF AMERICA STORIES PROJECT AT MAY 5TH SEASON FINAL CONCERT



Left to right—Mary Woodmansee Green, Winner Sophie Miklos, and Bill Altstaetter

Composer Peter Boyer was inspired by the stories that immigrants of the 1900s told as they were interviewed at Ellis Island in New York harbor as they arrived to become Americans. His masterwork, "Ellis Island: The Dream of America" was the result.

Taking a cue from Boyer, the Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra's 2007-2008 theme is a season-long celebration of "The Dream of America." A performance of "Ellis Island" was featured at the concluding concert of the 2007-2008 season.

Expanding the celebration of America, the Symphony partnered with The Heritage Library to conduct a "Dream of America Stories Project," to capture more stories of immigration, from the 1900s to the 21st Century, especially stories with a Lowcountry flavor.

Area residents were invited to submit their own (or their family members' or ancestors') stories of their personal "Dream of America." Stories dealt with aspects of immigrating to America and personal experiences impacting the writers' vision of "The Dream of America." The competition among adults was administered by The Heritage Library while at the same time the local schools conducted a similar program for area youth.

A panel of distinguished writers, authors, and historians judged the adult competition with the final selections being made by *Mrs. Margaret Greer*, *Mr. David Lauderdale*, and *Mr. John Jakes*. Special thanks are extended to the panel for their diligent efforts in selecting the winning entries.

The winners were recognized at the Symphony's May 5<sup>th</sup> "Dream of America" program at First Presbyterian Church with an awards ceremony following the concert in Fellowship Hall.

Honorable Mention awards went to:

*Roger Carlson*; titled "Coming to America," his story told of a young girl's journey from Sweden in search of her "dream."

*Richard E. Nelson* story called "The Norwegian Nelson Immigration" related the history of one family's journey from Delholt, Norway to the Great Plains of the American West in the 1840s.

*Leo G. Roell's* account titled "A Man with a Dream" was the story of one young Irishman who found his "Dream of America" here on Hilton Head Island.

**THIRD PLACE WINNER** was *Barbara Baumgardner* for an account of a grandfather's trek through the north woods from Canada to Vermont titled "Coming to America"

**SECOND PLACE WINNER** was *Rick Hoel* for "A Matter of Time," a stirring account of his Father's WWII adventures with the Army Air Corps in Europe involving a B-26, Holland's Maas River, and a Swiss "Gallet" Chronograph called "A Matter of Time."

**FIRST PLACE** went to *Sophie Miklos*. Titled, "My American Dream," her story is a heartrending tale of a child caught up in war torn Hungary, her survival of the "Holocaust" and coming safely to America to raise her family, and live the "An American Dream."

Special Thanks to all who participated from all of us at The Heritage Library and the Hilton Head Symphony, to the winners and their families and most especially to those who "lived" their "Dream of America."

The winning stories may be viewed on exhibition at The Heritage Library from Memorial Day through the Fourth of July.

## “VON’S BENCH” NEW ADDITION TO FORT MITCHEL

*Visitors to Fort Mitchel may now pause during their tour of the site to rest on the newly installed bench in the shelter of the trees lining the embankment overlooking Skull Creek.*

Fort Mitchel received this gift from the Von Hoffman family and friends and The Coastal Discovery Museum honoring the memory of “Von” Von Hoffman, Gini’s husband was a longtime resident of Hilton Head

### VON’S BENCH



“Von’s Bench” - A gift to Ft. Mitchel from the Von Hoffman Family and The Coastal Discovery Museum.

Island and a docent at The Coastal Discovery Museum. For many years, Von lectured for the Museum on the history of Hilton Head Island and its role in the Civil War. During his tenure with Coastal Discovery Museum he was the principal lecturer at Fort Mitchel spending many happy hours delighting visitors to the site with tales of the Lowcountry, Hilton Head Island, and Fort Mitchel in particular.

Receipt of the Von Hoffman Bench was formally recognized on Saturday, May 10th

at the 10 AM Dedication Ceremony at Fort Mitchel. The Blessing of the bench was conducted by Rev. Dr. Robert E. H. Peebles, Rector of Hilton Head’s Episcopal Church of the Redeemer and for 30 years President of The Hilton Head Island Historical Society, guardian of Fort Mitchel prior to The Heritage Library Foundation assuming that responsibility in 2005.

Michael Marks, President of the Coastal Discovery Museum discussed the importance of preserving the remaining evidence of our historic past and the role played by “Von” Von Hoffman and the Museum’s continuing participation making knowledge of the Past available to current and future generations of residents and visitors to the Lowcountry.

Bill Altstaetter, Immediate Past President of the Foundation accepted the Bench on behalf of The Heritage Library Foundation and expressed the gratitude of the Officers, Directors, Volunteers, Members and Patrons of the Library to the assembled members of the Von Hoffman Family and to the Coastal Discovery Museum.

Gini, and Von’s three sons and daughter reminisced about their life together and Von’s love for history in all its forms and his sharing of his passion through his work at the Museum and Fort Mitchel.

The Foundation is honored to have this valuable addition to Fort Mitchel.



The Von Hoffman Family



Gini Von Hoffman and Dr. Robert Peebles dedicate “Von’s Bench” at Ft. Mitchel’s Skull Creek Overlook.



Coastal Discovery’s President Michael Marks discussing Von’s role as an educator in the Museum’s history program.



Von’s daughter relating her Dad’s love of history and their last tour together of Hilton Head’s historic locations.

*Feature Article—**Hilton Head Island's African-American Cemeteries—**By Lyman Wooster, Staff Feature Writer*

Burial systems historically range from the grandiose pyramids of ancient Egypt, to the awesome and decorative 19th Century tombs in many of the older US cemeteries such as St. Bonaventure in Savannah, to a practice of sprinkling the deceased's ashes on open water. These various and contrasting systems tend to be reflective of the society and the era of which they are a part, and that generalization is clearly true of the burial practices of Hilton Head Island's African-Americans.

The Gullah/Geechee people who were brought from western Africa and enslaved on the plantations of the Lowcountry adapted to their new environment by following practices learned in Africa regarding such common matters as foods, crafts, and songs; also in matters dealing with death. West coast Africans believed in one god and in an afterlife in a world populated by spirits. They believed the dead capable of affecting the living, that while the body was buried and the soul went to heaven, the spirit of the deceased remained on earth influencing the living for good or evil; and graves were considered a medium for communicating with the spirit of the dead. That being so, they believed it important to appease the spirit, and one way of doing so was to place objects meaningful to the deceased on the grave.

There is little evidence in antebellum literature or in letters written by planters and family members regarding the religion of their slaves or of their burial practices. A Chicora Foundation report cites two letters, however, written by planters that provide some information about funerals in South Carolina. Both services occurred at night -non-working hours; both were attended by a "large number of Negroes;" and in both cases the deceased were buried in rough coffins. It is rather strange that there is so little information about burials because in the 18th and 19th Centuries burials must have been frequent, an almost weekly event. One study, according to a Chicora report, asserts that nearly 90 per cent of all children in the South Carolina and Georgia coastal rice plantations died before reaching the age of 16. The mortality rate of adults was also high.

Of archaeological and anthropological importance is a study, noted in an article of the Chicora Foundation, of a graveyard discovered in connection with the construction of a motel in the Charleston area. Heavy equipment operators stopped work when bone was uncovered and specialists were called in; 36 skeletons dated from 1840 to 1870 were excavated, then studied. The average age at death for males was 36 and for females about 40 years. There were indications of infections in many of the individuals; anemia was also a common problem; and there was skeletal evidence of demanding physical labor. Burials were typically rather shallow, none being deeper than four feet. Upon completion of the study, the skeletons were reburied. There apparently have been no such in-depth studies of Hilton Head graveyards.

Some of the present-day African-American cemeteries on Hilton Head Island predate the Civil War, while others came into existence after 1863. Not long ago, a graveyard was discovered in the vicinity of the Mathews Drive and Beach City Road intersection; there were no headstones or markers, only bones old



Pinefield Cemetery on Broad Creek off Marshland Road

*(Continued on page 7)*

enough to indicate that the cemetery was probably antebellum. That finding suggests that there might well be other unmarked and undiscovered cemeteries on Hilton Head, especially given the high death rate among slaves; planters did not bother to indicate on maps or plats the location of black cemeteries. As of 1861 there were two dozen plantations on Hilton Head and each one could conceivably have had a cemetery.

In the antebellum period, wooden boards were commonly used as headstones, and their tendency to decay and disintegrate explains why so many known cemeteries have unmarked graves today and why there may be some unidentified cemeteries. The use of wooden boards was replaced, probably in the latter half of the 19th Century, by poured cement on which printing could be done while the cement was still damp. While people wanted the best possible funeral and often saved diligently in order to have one, headstones apparently were not considered essential to an elegant funeral. Moreover, a present-day visit to Hilton Head cemeteries reveals the fairly frequent use of granite headstones in modern times.

Most black cemeteries were and are situated on marginal land near marshes and open water, property with large trees and often underbrush. It was land not suitable for cultivation, and to modern viewers the

heavy vegetation gave an impression that the graveyards were not cared for. The very nature of the settings led to a random arrangement of graves that suggested a rather haphazard layout, unlike white cemeteries where graves and headstones tend to be neatly aligned on well-manicured lawns and neatly landscaped property.

Being near open water was supportive of an African-American belief. As one person reportedly commented: the sea brought us so the sea shall take us back, and in the context of that belief, sea shells were particularly relevant as gifts to a grave. Also pitchers, jugs and vases -- all associated with water -- were often found on graves.

An African-American practice of placing the body with the head to the west had two explanations: one is that placing the body in such a position had it facing toward Africa, the place from which it came; the other is



Talbird Cemetery on Skull Creek in Hilton Head Plantation

that the dead should not have to turn around when Gabriel blows his trumpet in the eastern sunrise.

The local practice, a custom that originated in Africa, of putting objects on the grave, objects favored by the deceased such as cups and saucers, bowls, toys, and other miscellany, appears to be a thing of the past, in part perhaps because souvenir hunters desecrated graves by pocketing the objects. One way that scavengers have been thwarted is to implant an item such as a plate in a cement headstone.

In the 19th Century, black cemeteries did not typically preserve family groupings. Kin would be buried in the same graveyard but not necessarily in a family enclave. That practice seems to be changing for in recent visits to local cemeteries some family groupings were apparent.

Because of the marginal nature of the land on which Hilton Head's black cemeteries are located, there is a marked similarity among them; in a sense; they all look very much the same with numerous trees, rather bare ground, and a placement of graves without any particular pattern. There are about a dozen active African-American cemeteries today on Hilton Head with the Lawton Cemetery in Sea Pines one of the oldest. It is relatively small and is currently being maintained by the Oyster Landing Club. Another of the antebellum cemeteries in Sea Pines is the Braddock's Point or Harbortown Cemetery; it is located between two apartment buildings and is adjacent to the 18th fairway of the Harbortown Golf Links; some native islanders believe that that fairway passes over buried ancestors. There once was a Possum Point Cemetery on the banks of Broad Creek near what is now the Haig Point Embarkation site, but it has disappeared, reportedly a

*(Continued on page 8)*

*(Continued from page 7)*

victim of tidal wash and housing development. Elliot Cemetery in Hilton Head Plantation is another antebellum cemetery that, according to a news item in the Island Packet, was damaged by the work of a backhoe about a decade ago.

Within Hilton Head Plantation there are two African-American cemeteries. Elliot, which may be accessed by walking either of two paths, one off of Deerfield Road and the other out of Dolphin Head Recreation area; the other cemetery, Talbot or Talbird, is at the north end of Skull Creek Drive, and is adjacent to an upscale condominium on one border and Skull Creek on other sides. The cemetery is maintained by the Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church. The African-American cemeteries within "gated communities" can be accessed by relatives of people buried there upon obtaining permission from the appropriate POAs. The parking lot for the Amelia White Cemetery also serves a town recreation facility and Green's Shell Enclosure, which is the wording on the sign on Squire Pope Road marking the entrance to the cemetery. It is a cemetery of about three and a half acres that overlooks a marsh.

Drayton Cemetery faces Port Royal Sound and Barker Field is nearby. It appears to be in two sections: one containing several recent burials marked by granite headstones; and an older section that includes graves dating back to the 19th Century -- and probably a number of unmarked graves. It is maintained by the St. James Baptist Church. Spanish Wells Cemetery is off the road of that name; it is about one and two-thirds acres in size enclosed in a chain link fence and surrounded by Oak Marsh homes. A Chicora report states that it too has numerous unmarked graves.

Joe Pope Cemetery's almost two acres are surrounded by a wooden fence and is situated along US 278 on one side and the Piggly Wiggly parking lot on another. It is managed by the Queens Chapel AME Church.



The White Family Cemetery on Union Cemetery Road—the site of the former "Union Cemetery" from the Civil War Era

of Broad Creek and may be accessed from Marshland Road. It is maintained by the First African Baptist Church.

The protection and preservation of the Hilton Head African-American cemeteries is ethically correct, a matter of morality. They are also repositories of cultural, religious, anthropological, and genealogical information, and thus they are of historical value. Overseeing the safety of cemeteries is a function of the town, county, and state, and the record of these governmental units regarding African-American cemeteries is not perfect. For example, in the state of South Carolina the desecration of a cemetery is a crime only if it is done "willfully and knowingly," words that make it virtually impossible to hold anyone accountable for his or her actions. This is especially true where there is no evidence on the surface -- headstones, for example --

Also off of US 278 is the White Family Cemetery. It was once the Union Cemetery and when the Civil War veterans, including 98 black veterans, who were buried there were moved to the National Cemetery in Beaufort, it became a White family and St. James Baptist Church cemetery. Another cemetery off of US 278 is the Jenkins Island Cemetery not far from the bridge connecting the island to the mainland. It was evidently founded in the 18th Century and is a somewhat isolated cemetery, the nearest habitation being an RV park at the end of Jenkins Road. It is also a cemetery of the Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church. Another cemetery probably founded in the 18th Century is Pinefield, sometimes referred to as Otter Hole Cemetery. It is three-quarters of an acre in size on the banks

*(Continued on page 9)*



(Continued from page 8)

that a graveyard exists. So Possum Point cemetery has disappeared; Braddock's Point cemetery's unmarked graves have probably been violated; and Elliot Cemetery has evidently been abused.

Margaret Creel in "A Peculiar People" [the Gullah/Geechee] wrote the following sentence: "Belief in ancestral spirits, in life after death, and in the significance of that future life gave funeral and burial rites a central place in African existence." To which Emory Campbell, a notable Hilton Head Islander and Gullah authority, added the thought that the Gullah people have blended African beliefs and Christianity.

Lyman D. Wooster

### Bibliography

Grave Matters: The Preservation of African-American Cemeteries, Chicora Foundation, Inc., 1996.

Nattie Harvey (Hefter), Braddock's Point Cemetery: An Examination of African- American Burial Customs, Folklife, June 12, 1995.

Robert Hughes Wright and Wilbur B. Hughes III, Lay Down Body, Living History in African-American Cemeteries, Visible Ink Press, 1996.

Emory S. Campbell, Gullah Cultural Legacies, Gullah Heritage Consulting Services, 2005.

William S. Pollitzer, The Gullah People and their Heritage, The University of Georgia Press, 1999.

~~~~~

On an Historical Note— [Cover Photo]

The Beaufort County Historical Society unveiled Beaufort County's newest historical marker on May 1, following their annual meeting which featured a discussion of Clara Barton, her life, and the role she played in launching, as president of the American Red Cross, a rescue effort at the time of the Great Sea Island Storm in August of 1893.

Thirty years earlier, Clara Barton had spent nine months on Union-occupied Hilton Head Island. At age 72, she was very familiar with the lay of the land of the Lowcountry.

The storm was the second most fatal hurricane in US history. The massive hurricane slammed into SC and Georgia at high tide. The Gullah communities along the coastal islands suffered the most.

The storm was the most powerful to strike South Carolina until Hurricane Hugo in 1989. 2,000 or more victims drowned and tens of thousands were left homeless, hungry, and destitute. Grits and pork sustained the homeless for almost a year.

Unveiled by Fran Heyward Marscher and dedicated to the memory of William (Bill) Marscher, the marker is located at the National Historic District of Penn Center.

The Beaufort County Historical Society, founded in 1939, is the oldest association in Beaufort County dedicated to the study and preservation of history. For more information please contact Iva Welton, President at ivasouth@aol.com or 671-4865.

~~~~~

From the Editor—*With the passing earlier this year of Bill Marscher, the Heritage Library lost a great friend and volunteer staff member. Those of us who worked with Bill were keenly aware of his abiding interest in our nation's history and the heritage of its people. We are duly thankful for his sharing this passion with us. He is sorely missed.*

~~~~~

Voices from the Past

"History is the witness that testifies to the passing of time, it illumines reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life, and brings us tidings of antiquity."

Marcus Tullius Cicero—106—43 B.C.



In the foreground are Iva Roberts Welton, President, Beaufort County Historical Society, Fran Heyward Marscher, and Rosalyn Browne, Director of History and Culture at Penn Center, Inc.

About Our Members and Volunteers

Update from the Membership Director—by Gwen Altstaetter

The first half of 2008 has brought in many new members to The Heritage Library. We welcomed 52 new members and 2 who are back doing research after taking a break.

Our new members come from Canada, Maine, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia and various parts of South Carolina. Welcome to: Fred and Mary Ellen Ackerson, Donald Barvoets, Dr. Joseph Black, Lynne and Randy Breland, Carol and Victor Delgado, Tom DeMilio, Alicia Dickson, Kathleen Doran, James and Marsha Fall, David Fletcher, Carole Fowler, Elizabeth Galloway, Janis Gatschet, Beverley and David Griffin, Sue Hall, Mary Jean and Robert Herberger, Shirley and John Holt, Judith Kane, Pamela Keating, James Lutrell, Harold Malion, Judi Martin, Kathy and Irving Meeker, Laura Miller, Ed and Sue Morgan, Tom Moxley, Janice Niver, Nancy Parke, Robert and Donna Rombauer, Richard and Patricia Sasso, Jim and Joan Sherry, Dennis and Carol Snyder, Hugh and Barbara Terreri, Patty and David Weed and T.K Wood. In addition a special welcome back to Scott Foster and Helen Payne.

We hope your experience in the library has been successful, exciting and fun! If our staff can be of more assistance be sure to let us know! We are always trying to improve our services and need your input. In the meantime be sure to continue to “spread the word” since we are always hearing from people “I didn’t even know you were here!” You are, after all, our best publicity!

Volunteer Sales efforts Nets Heritage Library \$3,360 From Fourth Annual Equestrian Exposition at Rose Hill

Thank you on behalf of the Heritage Library Foundation to all participants volunteers, members and friends who, either bought ads or were Patrons for the fourth annual Equestrian Exposition held at Rose Hill Plantation on March 30th.

We were proud beneficiaries of one of the most outstanding events in the Lowcountry and invite you to join us next spring to benefit the Heritage Library Foundation.

For more information, please contact Iva Welton at ivasouth@aol.com or 843-671-4865.



Above—Gwen Altstaetter , Nancy & Joe Burke relaxing at the Library’s exhibit during the afternoon Polo match at the fourth annual Equestrian Exposition at Rose Hill Plantation.

Left—The teams in action. Middle rider is about to score.

Goings on and about



*What's New from
the Head Librarian*

2008 is the 200th anniversary of the ban on importation of slaves directly from Africa into the United States (although it continued by the ruse of an intermediary call at a port elsewhere, such as in Barbados).

The Heritage Library is noting the date in several ways.

In April, Dr. James Rose, a noted African-American genealogist and Sun City resident, gave a training session for Library volunteers on researching black genealogy. This is often a frustrating task, since few if any records were kept on slave populations.

Also in April, volunteer Lyman Wooster gave a lecture to an OSHA Life Long Learning class on “African-American cemeteries on Hilton Head Island.” A briefer version of his talk is the Feature article in this issue.

Foundation Board member Emory Campbell has recently been named Chairman of the Federal Gullah-Geechee Heritage Corridor Commission. This entity is charged with assisting in the interpretation and preservation of the Gullah culture in coastal areas from North Carolina to Florida. Longtime friend of The Heritage Library Louise Cohn also serves on the Commission.

Work is continuing apace on the Library project on members of the U.S. Colored Troops Regiment 21 who were born on Hilton Head or served on the Island during the Civil War. Pension and service records for them have been obtained from NARA, and are being examined for genealogical and historical information.

Several books have recently been added to our African-American collection.

“*Black Genesis*” by Dr. James Rose. 2003. (sources and methods for researching African-American genealogy).

“*Africanisms in the Gullah Dialect*” by Lorenzo D. Turner. 1949. (Standard work on the Gullah language.)

“*Gullah Culture in America*” by Wilbur Cross. 2008. (A comprehensive book on the history and culture of the unique people of the South Carolina and Georgia coasts, by a Hilton Head resident).

“*Eyewitness to American History*” by Dr. James Rose. (DVD version of a forthcoming book comprising slave narratives collected by WPA interviews during the 1930s).

“*The Final Victims*” by James McMillin. 2004. (A study of the foreign slave trade to North America, 1783-1810).

“*Inhuman bondage*” by David Davis. 2006. (A history of slavery in the New World).

~~~~~

From the Lighter Side—Gleaning from the World Wide Web—with thanks or apologies to the unknown authors!

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Try Fourteenth Century England for instance—

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then the sons and other men, then the women, and finally the children. Last of all the were the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying—**DON'T THROW THE BABY OUT WITH THE BATH WATER!**

Since many people took their yearly bath in May, most marriages took place in June, as they still smelled pretty good. However they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide any body odor.

Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

~~~~~

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT THE HERITAGE LIBRARY ABOUND

Members are needed to assist patrons with their research. You don't have to consider yourself an accomplished "genealogist" to be of valuable assistance to patrons, especially our new members and first time visitors. The "old hands" know pretty much what they are about, so it is the folks new to "our sport" who can use your help. The senior staff and the lead librarians will guide you as you learn the collections and how to operate the printers and copiers, and to navigate on the Web. From then on you will be able to guide the new researchers in their quest for their heritage using the same logic and techniques used for your own work.

Volunteering at the Heritage can be stimulating to your own work. If you sign on to help for a three hour shift, why not set aside the day for genealogy? Make a day of it. Come in early or stay after your shift for several hours. Put into practice on your project, what you have been learning helping others. You'll be surprised how much progress you'll make. Think about bringing a friend and work as a team. We all know a friend who has always wanted to "do their own genealogy" but just hasn't "gotten a roundtoit." *We DO have "roundtoits" available at the library.*

Come on in, the air conditioning works, the folks are friendly, besides y'all need the exercise—
Exercise of the mind, that is!

IF WE HAD THE VOLUNTEERS WE WOULD NOT BE CLOSING ON SATURDAYS THIS SUMMER

The "back office staff" too, needs additional assistance in the areas of public relations, secretarial services, phone answering, filing, collections management, data entry; all the things you take for granted when you come through the front door.

IF YOU WILL HELP, EVEN A LITTLE, CALL THE LIBRARY AT 686-6560 AND LEAVE A
MESSAGE FOR ISOBEL OR GWEN AND LET THEM KNOW YOU ARE INTERESTED,
One or the other will contact you.

FALL CLASSES FOR LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS IN THE WORKS

The possibility of a formal Docent training program is under consideration for the Fall. We are just beginning to work on a course outline, so if you have any interest in such a program let us know. Your ideas and suggestions will help us design the course and make it more practical and valuable.

Contact Nancy Burke or Bill Altstaetter at the Library with your ideas.

THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU AT THE HERITAGE LIBRARY

To get in the game — A Membership - \$60.00 a year.

Time spent in quiet contemplation of the "long ago" — As much as you wish.

*The excitement of piercing the "veil of time" - The joy of connection with your ancestors -
The gift of heritage to your children—*

PRICELESS!