



# The Heritage Observer

News from The Heritage Library

*Bringing the Past to Life*

Vol. 8, No. 1

January 2016

## 2015 Accomplishments

- Named a FACILITY, National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom
- Partner, Gullah Geechee National Heritage Corridor
- Presented Civil War lesson plans to Beaufort County School District Teachers and Board
- Presented History Day, 2015
- Successful Zion capital campaign launch
- Successful “Lowcountry Reads for the Holidays” book fair
- Increased Ft. Mitchel visits and tours by 286.3% over 2014
- Increased Zion visits and tours by 19.4% over 2014
- Increased attendance at ancestry classes and history programs by 99.7%



## The Heritage Library is Coming to Beaufort

The Heritage Library was approached by the Santa Elena Foundation in Beaufort to open a branch of our Library in their new building at 1501 Bay Street, Beaufort, to focus on genealogy research. This building was the Federal Courthouse building at one time and the second floor was the courtroom and judge’s chambers. The Foundation has set aside the judge’s chamber on the second floor to be our branch library and it is a beautiful room with big windows, a view of the water, lovely shelves and storage and our own restroom.

We have recruited some experienced genealogy researchers to staff the branch, and we welcome Nancy and Carroll Crowther, Ruth Ragland, Joan Schor, Weedy Servaes, Charlene Shufelt, Peter Somerville and Mary Somerville to the branch library staff. We will have a soft opening in February and our grand opening in April to coincide with the grand opening of the Santa Elena History Center and the 450th anniversary of Santa Elena.

Today, the Charlesfort-Santa Elena site is a National Historic Monument, important for its associations with the 16th-century conflict between Spain and France for control of the New World and with officers Spaniard Pedro Menendez de Aviles and Frenchman Jean Ribault. In addition to being a landmark, the site is also considered archaeologically significant.

We are honored to be a part of the celebration of this history, and look forward to your visit to our new site.



Above:  
Santa Elena  
Center



Left to right:  
Charlene  
Shufelt,  
Ruth  
Ragland,  
Linda Piekut

**Officers:****Executive Director:** Linda T. Piekut**President:** Lou Benfante**Vice President:** Ezra Callahan**Secretary:** Allison Diercks**Treasurer:** Peter Cooper**Board of Directors:****Class of 2016**

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# Letter from the Board

The Library's accomplishments in 2015 were outstanding. (See Page 1) They are the result of the hard work and dedication of our volunteers.

Our Board members have all made significant contributions to the Zion capital campaign and will continue to work towards the completion of that project. At the Board's January meeting, Board members will discuss and review the Library's strategic plan which will help set the Library's

course for the next three to five years.

The Board hopes that you will attend our Annual Meeting on February 17, which will be a luncheon meeting. Details will follow after the location is determined. Besides the election of new Board members, you will learn about the Library's plans and activities for 2016.

Our all-volunteer Board wishes to thank all of our volunteers and wishes them a wonderful and rewarding 2016.

## Classes & Lectures

### ANCESTRY CLASSES

Class size is limited • Registration is required: Call 843-686-6560

**Wednesdays, Jan 20 & 27, 1:30-3:30** — Starting Family Research (two-session course for beginners): \$25 for Library members, \$35 non-members; *Nancy Burke, Head Librarian*

The following classes are held on Wednesdays from 1:30-3:30  
\$10 for Library members,  
\$15 non-members

**Feb 3** — Autosomal DNA - Make the Most of Your Results: *Jan Alpert*

**Feb 10** — Escape from the Usual Sources: *Carol Clemens*

**Feb 17** — African-American Family Research: *Nancy Burke*

**Feb 24** — Basic Computer Skills for Genealogists Using Windows 8 & 10: *Carol Clemens*

**Mar 2** — Exploring the FamilySearch Family Tree and the FamilySearch Apps Gallery: *Shelley Block*

**Mar 9** — Tips for Searching Ancestry.com and Familysearch.org: *Carol Clemens*

**Mar 16** — Exploring Your Irish Roots I: *Beth O'Keefe*

**Mar 23** — Is DNA Your Next Step?: *Jan Alpert*

### TUESDAY HISTORY PROGRAMS

10:30 am • \$10 per person • Registration requested: Call 843-686-6560

**Jan 19:** Historic Sites of Hilton Head Island

**Jan 26:** The Role of Women in the History and Development of Hilton Head Island

**Feb 2:** The Story of Santa Elena

**Feb 9:** The Story of Mitchelville

**Feb 16:** The Gullah People & Culture

**Feb 23:** Early Explorers of the SC Lowcountry

**Mar 1:** Historic Sites of Hilton Head Island

**Mar 8:** The Role of Women in the History and Development of Hilton Head Island

**Mar 15:** The Story of Santa Elena

**Mar 22:** The Story of Mitchelville

**Mar 29:** The Gullah People and Culture





# Book Fair

The first-ever Heritage Library Book Fair was a huge success. We estimate that close to 300 people attended and purchased over \$12,000 worth of books. Our 32 authors were happy, our visitors were happy and the Library was thrilled with the results. Our headliner, Pat Conroy, stayed until he had talked with every person in line waiting to see him. We thank Christ Lutheran Church and the Christ Loyal Chefs for their support, and our sponsors, the Island Writers Network.



## Sharing the Heritage

Continuing our series about the many fine Beaufort County historical organizations, this is one you may not have heard of, The Beaufort County Historical Resources Consortium. The Consortium was founded by Grace Cordial in 2003. Grace is the head of the Beaufort District Collection at the Beaufort County Library in Beaufort.



By Iva Roberts Welton

resources to heighten public and civic awareness of the history of our County.

Members provide public access to documents, research materials, artifacts, maps, structures and exhibits. Many present programs related to Beaufort County history. They seek to preserve and promote their historical

and cultural collections that reveal Beaufort County's critical role in the region, state and nation.

The Consortium meets three times a year and dates for meetings are set at the January meeting. I always look forward to sharing news from our Heritage Library and hearing news from the other members.

Members are:

- Archaeological Society of SC/Hilton Head Chapter
- Beaufort County Historical Society
- Beaufort District Collection, Beaufort County Library
- City of Beaufort Planning Department, City Historic Preservationist
- Coastal Discovery Museum
- Daufuskie Island Historical Foundation
- Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Collection
- Heritage Library History and Genealogy Research Center
- Historic Beaufort Foundation
- Parris Island Museum
- Parrish Church of St. Helena Archives
- Penn Center
- Port Royal Historical Foundation
- Port Royal Maritime Center

# Heritage Library Legacy Society

**P**lanned gifts provide financial flexibility and tax benefits for you and allow you to provide ongoing support to the Heritage Library. Gifts through your will can reduce your estate taxes and ensure the future of the Library's mission. Gifts outside your will, such as naming the Heritage Library Foundation as a beneficiary on appreciated securities, retirement plans, or insurance policies will avoid probate. Simply call Linda Piekut, 843-686-6560, and let her

know that the Heritage Library Foundation is part of your estate planning.

Your gift will contribute to the Library's mission to document and promote the history of Hilton Head Island and to continue to be a premier ancestry library.

**Charter Members:**

- The Altstaetter Family Trust
- Peter Cooper
- Dori Dixon
- The Robert and Cora Peeples Charitable Foundation

## Did You Know?



Do you know that every time you shop at Kroger you can automatically donate money to the Heritage Library? All you have to do is swipe your Kroger Plus Card when you make a purchase. To get your card, go to [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com) and follow the simple instructions.

A reminder — if you already have a card, it has to be renewed annually.

**THE Changers**  
2016 SPEAKERS SERIES  
*Our Community's Agents of Change Share What's Next*

**MONDAY, JAN. 25<sup>TH</sup>**  
5:30PM - RECEPTION  
6:00PM - TALK  
COLIGNY THEATRE,  
COLIGNY PLAZA  
TICKETS: \$20/PERSON • \$30/COUPLE



• GUEST SPEAKER •

## State Senator Tom Davis

### THE PORT AUTHORITY

No single project will come to impact the Lowcountry in the 21st century more than the Jasper Port. Senator Tom Davis will share how the port came about, the challenges it faced along the way, and what it means for the economy and people of Beaufort and Jasper County.

[Click to Register](#)

Purchase tickets online at [HeritageLib.org](http://HeritageLib.org) or [CoastalDiscovery.org](http://CoastalDiscovery.org) or by calling 843.686.6560



presented by  
**THE HERITAGE LIBRARY &  
COASTAL DISCOVERY MUSEUM**





# ZION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DONORS

The Heritage Library has launched this capital campaign to preserve the Baynard Mausoleum and create an outdoor learning center where programs for adults and children will be held. The following donors are helping to achieve these goals.

If you wish to make a contribution, send your check marked "Zion Fund" to Community Foundation of the Lowcountry, Post Office Box 23019, Hilton Head Island, SC 29925.



\$20,000+  
Patriots

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smith

\$10,000 - \$19,999  
Preservationist

Dori M. Dixon  
Carol and Ward Mathis;  
Baynard Descendant

\$5,000 - \$9,999  
Founders

Pam and Dave Schofield

\$1,000-\$4,999  
Historians

The Bargain Box Hilton Head Island  
Lou Benfante and Laurette Doscher  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Cooper  
Gretchen and Thomas D. Johns  
MAJ Enterprises  
Jim and Carolyn Robinson  
VanLandingham Rotary Club

\$500 - \$999  
Builders

Paul and Martha Anthony  
The Baer Family  
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Burke  
Ezra and Audrey Callahan  
Mary Ann and Atlee Compher  
Dodi and Harry Eschenbach  
National Society Sons & Daughters of the Pilgrims SC Branch  
Linda and David Piekut  
Takacs Family

\$0 - \$499  
Militiamen

Susan and Ivan Bennett  
Dr. and Mrs. Davant III  
Allison Diercks  
Elizabeth R. Hanson  
Dr. J. Brent Morris  
Andrea and Bruce Siebold  
Kathryn Stewart  
Grace and William Tiernay  
Iva Roberts Welton  
Womens Club of Sea Pines



# Heritage Volunteers

*Beth Egan O'Keefe*

**B**eth credits her history-crammed hometown, Springfield, IL, for her interest in both history and genealogy.

When in high school, she and her best friend decided to go on a mission — to find Ann Rutledge's original gravesite. (Ann was supposedly Lincoln's first love when he lived in New Salem, IL.) They located the original Rutledge family graveyard, abandoned with rusty barbed wire and no gate. They climbed over the barbed wire. Beth got caught on the wire and ended up with a tetanus shot. They came to the conclusion that without DNA there was no way folks could have known that they had the right body when they moved it to the cemetery in Petersburg and placed the stone, with Edgar Lee Masters' poem, on the new gravesite. If you ever visit Ann Rutledge's grave take the scene with a big grain of salt.

Genealogy was an interest of Beth's when she was young but it really took off the summer she worked at the Illinois State Archives in Springfield between college and graduate school. She had a variety of tasks to accomplish but most interesting to her was to help folks who would write in with genealogy questions.



*Heritage Library volunteer  
Beth Egan O'Keefe*

Beth never gave up her interest in history and genealogy but years passed without devoting any time to either. When she retired from a 40 year clinical psychology practice in July 2013 she had two goals — bridge and genealogy — and both are well represented on Hilton Head.

Beth joined the Heritage Library as a volunteer in 2014. Usually on Fridays, she helps patrons figure out their family history. She feels most useful when they are researching Irish ancestors, especially if they have “crossed the pond” (have gotten the immigrant ancestor back to Ireland). If you have

Irish roots, why not reserve some time with her on a Friday. Just call the Library, 843-686-6560, for an appointment.

She also moderates a monthly Irish Genealogy Group which meets at 10 am on the second Friday of each month at the Library. Usually, she presents some information and then the group does what it does best — helps each other. The monthly meetings have been very satisfying, with all members both learning and teaching. You don't need a reservation, just come. They won't throw you out if you are not Irish, but you will get more out of it if you are. There is no charge. However, you might want to call first to confirm that they will be meeting that month. Beth feels very strongly that genealogy without historical background is a waste of time and energy. So, any group she leads, or any presentation she gives, is strongly tied to history.

Several times a year, Beth presents programs on Irish history and genealogy at the Library and at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute of the University of South Carolina Beaufort. She did one presentation at each location last fall and has one scheduled for each in the spring.

## Ancestry Research

**C**lemson University's Pan African Group is continuing to work with us on genealogical research. They will be here from May 7 through May 14. The students will start two new projects: researching the history of members of the First African Baptist Church on Hilton Head Island and beginning a genealogical study of Daufuskie Island native families. They will conduct oral histories and

collect documents, photos, and mementos.

Heritage Library volunteers are also embarking on a new project. They will work with Campbell Chapel A.M.E. Church in Bluffton to help trace the genealogy and history of its founding members.

Our Library has become a well-known genealogy research center.

# The End of Family Tree Maker Software: What does it mean?

By now, you probably know that after December 2015, Family Tree Maker Software (FTM) will no longer be produced and sold. It will continue to be supported, though, through January 1, 2017.

Simply stated, the company has decided to focus on improving its more limited online Ancestry Trees instead of continuing to develop and sell the software.

What does this mean for you?

Right now, it has NO impact on you if you currently use the Family Tree Maker Software. If you own the software, you can use it for as long as you want. It is yours and it will not “disappear.” If you own the software on a disk, you can even install it on a new computer. However, if you use the software AND sync your tree to the online ancestry trees, you can only sync through the end of 2016. If your goal is to produce a nice print-



*By Carol Clemens*

ed product, you currently get much better options and final product from the software. I will continue to use FTM on my computer, taking care to back it up on flash drives, external drive, and in the cloud on Carbonite.

Second, I suggest that you not rush out and buy new software to replace FTM. There have already been several companies advertising “special deals” for FTM users and there will be others as we get closer to 2017. The Heritage Library is planning to investigate options and present a panel/program in the fall of 2016 to give you some thoughts on other software to replace FTM. If you do buy other software right now, you have to go through some “hoops” to transform your files to GEDCOM files to import into other programs. We are also following this issue and right now do not recommend that you tackle this. Most reports indicate

that you will lose data if not done correctly. By waiting, other companies may adjust their importing process to allow an easier transfer of all data from FTM to their software.

Finally, being an optimist, I still hold onto the hope that Ancestry will heed the comments of its many users and reconsider this decision; selling off this portion of the company to someone who will continue to improve and update FTM, or coming up with another solution.

For those who currently do not use any software product, I suggest that you be patient and not rush out and buy anything now. Wait for the Heritage panel/program on suggested options to be given at the Heritage Library in the fall of 2016.

So, relax, and continue to use your FTM software as long as it works on your computer. It is yours and no one can take it away from you.

Have questions? Ideas for an article? Email Carol at [clemens318@roadrunner.com](mailto:clemens318@roadrunner.com).

## Librarian's Corner



*By Nancy Burke,  
Head Librarian*

The establishment of the Santa Elena Foundation in Beaufort has opened another major historical venue in Beaufort County. A branch of the Heritage Library has been created, giving the Library the opportunity to extend its reach as a genealogy research center. As part of our new connection the Heritage Library is offering a number of history and genealogy presentations in the new facility. It was my privilege to give the first talk there.

I gave a lecture on Starting Family Research to a group of their new volunteers. The renovated Federal Courthouse Building offers a cheerful classroom with repurposed wooden courtroom benches as well as access to modern technology. The volunteers, some of whom had already done their own family research, were obviously looking forward to the challenge of sharing their skills with new researchers. It was a pleasure to be a part of this new venture.



# History Department

After a busy 2015, the History Department took a break in December when our volunteers were busy improving presentations and writing new ones. The following presentations were given during 2015: Historical Sites, Mitchelville, Gullah Culture and Heritage, The Role of Women in the Development of Hilton Head, Early Explorers, Civil War Medicine, and Santa Elena.



*By Dee Phillips  
History Co-Chair*

122 people had a delicious dinner at The Old Fort Pub followed by a tour of Ft. Mitchel led by General Mitchel (Lou Benfante). Not included in these numbers, are 311 people who visited Ft. Mitchel on History Day. In 2014, 711 people attended our on-site and off-site presentations. In 2015, there were 1384 attendees.

Second, our History Department volunteers are very generous with their time. Some present lectures on Tuesday mornings at the Library. Some are at Ft. Mitchel on Thursday mornings. Others are making presentations to clubs, organizations, church groups, and timeshare guests. You can find our volunteers spreading the news about Heritage Library wherever someone is willing to listen.

January will start a new season for us, and we are excited about some new presentations that are in the works. Our New Year's Resolution — to make sure everyone knows how great The Heritage Library is.

The end of the year was the time to look at our successes.

First, our numbers are up. In 2014, there were 51 attendees at the Ft. Mitchel Tours. In 2015, there were 268 people who came to hear about Ft. Mitchel — 146 individuals attended the regular tours on Thursdays and the other

## Heritage Library Membership

### New Members

Welcome to 22 New and 35 Renewal Members who have joined our Heritage Library Family.

#### Bluffton

Bonnie and Pete Leone  
Carol Murphy  
Robert Ricketts and  
Mary Ann Nester  
Nancy Whitworth

#### Daufuskie

Jennifer Hersch

#### Hilton Head Island

Judith Barrett  
Robert Blot  
Gail Borruso  
Joan and Michael Burns  
Don Carlson  
Ella and Joella Edwards  
Charles Fairbairn

Forrest and Eileen Fitzgerald  
George Kops  
Pat and Bart Korb  
Kathy and Gary Reynolds  
Joyce and Arthur Ryan  
Andrea Siebold  
Gerold Walker

#### Out of State

Margaret and  
Michael Baratto,  
Hoosick Falls NY  
Judy and Robert Burkholder,  
Atlanta GA  
Harriet and Dave Reynolds,  
Iowa City IA



*By Laurette  
Doscher-Benfante,  
Membership Chair*

### Renewal Members

#### Bluffton

Sylvia Aal  
Shelley and Terry Block  
Alan Chaput  
Judy Fox  
Barbara Friis  
Mary and Thomas Martin  
Bonnie Mucia  
Dedra and Thomas Roberts  
Carole and Ronald Rossi  
Gail and Jerry Ward

#### Hilton Head Island

Martha and Paul Anthony  
Christine and  
Terrence Baehr  
Susan and Ivan Bennett  
Sara Brennan  
Charles Calvert  
Sharon Crowley  
Dodi and Harry Eschenbach  
Paul Gerhart  
William Gilbert

Elizabeth Hanson  
Norman Harberger  
Kenneth Hillary  
Stephen Hyslop  
Linda Jackson  
Claudia Kennedy and  
Harold Hadley  
Sharon Lewis  
Diana and David Luellen  
John O'Hara  
Doreen and Alfred Prince

Mary Jane and Aurel Stuart  
Grace and William Tiernay  
Theresa and Harvey Varnet  
Donna Waller  
Caroll and George Williams

#### Out of State

Robert Malphrus, Troy NY

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

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

Enriching Our Lives with Art, Culture, and History