

Lowcountry Reads for the Holidays

The Heritage Library is holding its second annual Book Fair, “Lowcountry Reads for the Holidays,” on Saturday, November 12th from 11:00am to 3:00pm at Christ Lutheran Church, 829 William Hilton Parkway. Mary Kay Andrews, New York Times bestselling author, is the headliner and will have several of her books, including her new book, *The Weekenders*, for you to purchase and have her sign. She will be joined by over 40 authors, all available to talk with you and sign their books, some old favorites and some just published. Light refreshments are included in your entry fee.



The entry fee for the Book Fair is \$10 per person, and pre-registration is recommended. Four exciting programs have been added to the fair this year.

Meet Mary Kay Andrews at an intimate reception on Friday, Nov. 11, from 4:00pm to 6:00pm in the Club Room of the Country Club of Hilton Head. The cost is \$40 per person. Copies of her latest book, *The Weekenders*, will be available for purchase at a discount and signed by the author that evening. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Writers’ Workshops are scheduled from 9:00am to 11:00am before the fair opens. Each workshop costs \$15. Pre-registration is required.

A free **Children’s Corner**, with a free ice cream cone for each child who attends a reading by an author of one of our children’s books.

Free **Book Talks** by many of our favorite authors will be scheduled throughout the day.

As in the past, you will be able to buy raffle tickets for several baskets of goodies.

Additional information and registration for all events are available on www.HeritageLib.org.




Approximately 300 people attended last year’s inaugural Heritage Library Book Fair, and more than \$12,000 worth of books were sold.

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FROM THE BOARD:

Update on the Mayors' Task Force on Heritage Tourism

I previously reported that the goal of the Mayors' Task Force on Heritage Tourism is to develop stories with historic themes that will attract Cultural and Heritage tourists to Beaufort County.

The task force has identified over 100 historical sites in the county and has graded them on a Red, Yellow, Green scale based on a number of criteria. Another goal is to possibly help red sites become yellow and yellow sites to become green.

To that end, the task force has been touring the sites and speaking to the site owners to determine what is being done presently, what they would like to do at the sites, and what they need to get there. To date, the task force has toured Hilton Head Island, Bluffton and the Santa Elena site. On the schedule in the next few weeks are tours of Daufuskie Island and the Beaufort

area to include Port Royal, St. Helena, and Dataw Island.

Once the tours are completed the task force committees will prepare the beginnings of the story for their assigned theme.

The Hilton Head team will be preparing the story of the Gullahs. The Bluffton team will concentrate on the Civil War and Reconstruction. Early exploration and settlement will be done by the team from Beaufort.

The idea is to have these stories promoted by the

Chambers of Commerce to help attract tourists who are interested in these subjects.

Additional themes, such as the Revolutionary War and the Plantation Era, will be developed after the first three have been completed.

The Heritage Library is represented on the task force by Board members Ezra Callahan and Lou Benfante.



*By Lou Benfante,
 President*

Researching Your Family Tree? Heritage Library Has Two Locations

**Hilton Head Island**

852 William Hilton Parkway Suite 2A
 Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri 10am - 3pm
 843-686-6560

Beaufort

1501 Bay Street
 Tue, Wed & Fri 10am - 3pm
 843-379-1550

Heritage Volunteer

Janice Niver

Janice Niver, a volunteer since 2008, is our volunteer this issue. “Sick of shoveling snow,” brought Janice to the Lowcountry and a love of genealogy brought her to our Library. Enrolling in a genealogy class at the Library led to her first volunteer project, transcribing an 1860 plantation mortality table.

Janice grew up in Mount Vernon, NY. After obtaining an AS degree with a major in Business/Retailing, she worked for Arnold Constable on Fifth Avenue as a Selling Supervisor.

Her interest in retailing came from her maternal grandfather, who lived with her family, and told stories about his father who emigrated from Dublin and became a retailer on 14th Street in New York City owning two stores, one selling children’s clothing and the other women’s clothing.

Janice married in 1961 and the couple moved to Hudson, NY where her husband worked in his family’s business selling pianos and organs. Two years later they moved to Hartford, CT when her husband was offered a job there and Janice became a stay-at-home mother to two sons. In 1973,



Janice Niver has been a Heritage Library volunteer since 2008.

Janice returned to the work force starting a 33-year career in administrative positions in various industries. During this time she earned a BA in American Studies. In 2006 she retired from Kaman Industrial Technologies as a Benefits Administrator.

Her son, Chris, and his wife, Ariana, are both artists and he works for The Milwaukee Museum. Her son, Jon,

lives in Connecticut and works in the insurance industry. He and his wife, Paige, have a son, Taylor, and a daughter, Brittany.

Retirement meant that Janice could pursue her genealogy interests. All but one of her great-grandparents emigrated to the United States in the 19th century. She likes to connect her ancestors to a time and place in history. On a trip to Ireland, “I was able to walk down the street in Dublin where my great-great-grandfather had a business. He was a tobacconist and candle-maker. The street was just as my great-grandfather had described it to my mother. Between each building is a huge black iron gate and a dirt road leading to the back of the buildings.”

Janice has performed many duties as a Heritage volunteer and is currently responsible for sending thank you letters.

“Joining the Heritage Library was the best thing I could have done as a new resident of the Lowcountry. The interaction with other volunteers, common interests, and knowing that you are contributing something of value to the Library are very satisfying.”

Librarian’s Corner

Rick Bart, a genealogy volunteer at the Library, has embarked on an extraordinary project to produce family trees for past residents of Hilton Head under a single family tree heading, *Hilton Head Island People*, on Ancestry.com. This ambitious undertaking will allow online users to easily find genealogical information on past inhabitants. Each personal entry includes a pedigree chart, timeline, vital record data and linked sources.

To date *Hilton Head Island People* includes over 6000 individuals, more than 500 photos and some

700 stories. When pertinent, Ancestry “shaky leaves” indicate more information can be found elsewhere on Ancestry.com.

To locate the tree enter a name into the Ancestry.com search function and then scroll down the list of trees until *Hilton Head Island People* appears. The Gallery tab for each entry brings up detailed notes, stories, photos, and images of documents when available.

Hilton Head Island People is a work in progress as Rick continues to add new names and facts.



*By Nancy Burke,
Head Librarian*

History Department



By Dee Phillips
History Co-Chair

As the History Department welcomes the slightly cooler weather, the fall activities are heating up. Surprise, we have been busy adding more opportunities for visitors and residents to learn about the history of our beautiful Island.

This fall, the Tuesday morning history presentations at 10:30 will rotate with nine different presentations. (Please see page 5.) Ft. Mitchel tours continue on Thursday mornings at 10am

and Zion tours on Friday mornings at 10am. We will continue working with Spinnaker Resorts with on-site presentations on Wednesdays at 4pm for their owners and guests. New will be our working with Coral Sands and their owners on Tuesday evenings.

Since the beginning of September, Lou has been donning his General Mitchel uniform and

[HISTORY cont'd on Page 5]

History Day – October 15, 2016

History Day is back but with some exciting changes. This year you can do the tours by bike or trolley and can end the day with a Lowcountry Boil at Hudson's Seafood on the Docks.

All tours will be docent-led and there will be docents at many of the locations with fascinating stories to tell you. Tours are scheduled at several different times so you can select the time that suits you best. Perhaps you will decide to take both a bike and trolley tour — a list of places covered by each tour is available at www.HeritageLib.org. During the lunch hour, Melly Mel's catering will be selling BBQ and more at the Coastal Discovery Museum.

Tickets must be purchased in advance; to purchase tickets, go to www.HeritageLib.org.

Join us for a wonderful day.

MORNING BIKE TOUR - \$15

Leaves from Mitchelville Beach Park starting at 9:00, 9:30, 10:00 & 10:30

This tour winds through Hilton Head's deep roots in military history. Ages 12 and up, please.

AFTERNOON BIKE TOUR - \$15

Leaves from Hudson's Seafood on the Docks starting at 1:00, 1:30, 2:00 & 2:30

This tour focuses on Hilton Head's agricultural past plus a visit to Fort Mitchel in Hilton Head Plantation. Ages 10 and up, please.

MORNING TROLLEY TOUR - \$25

Leaves from Coastal Discovery Museum at Honey Horn starting at 9:00 & 9:30



Meet Harriet Tubman at Mitchelville

This tour focuses on Military History highlighting the tremendous impact the military has had on Hilton Head Island.

AFTERNOON TROLLEY TOUR - \$25

Leaves from Coastal Discovery Museum at Honey Horn starting at 1:00 & 1:30

This tour focuses on Forts & The Civil War with a visit to the site of Mitchelville.

HISTORIC LOWCOUNTRY DINNER AT AN HISTORIC LOWCOUNTRY PLACE

Enjoy a Lowcountry Boil at Hudson's Seafood on the Docks, Hilton Head Island's iconic seafood restaurant. Dinner served from 5:00 to 7:00pm. Tickets are \$35 per adult and \$15 per child. Cash Bar.

[**HISTORY** cont'd]

sharing his knowledge of Ft. Mitchel with dinner guests at the Old Fort Pub on Monday evenings. The history of Ft. Mitchel flourished before, during, and after a delicious meal. The house has been packed. This event has ended for the year.

This sounds busy, but there's more. New this October will be Ghost Stories at Zion Cemetery, scheduled for the 27th and 28th. Our history volunteers will share Lowcountry ghost stories and myths with you. (Please see page 3.)

As we roll through the fall, we can't forget that History Day is just around the corner on October 15th. Our History Department docents will be at our sites furnishing interesting information and answering your questions. (Please see page 5.)

On November 9th, Lou will speak about the Battle of Fort Pulaski at the Lowcountry Civil War Roundtable and will conduct a tour of the Fort on the 10th.

Fall will be exciting, and we can't wait to share everything with you. We'll have a few more surprises for you as we progress into January and February, so keep in touch with the Library for even more new opportunities.

Heritage Happenings

Reservations Required

Phone 843-686-6550 or online at www.HeritageLib.org

ANCESTRY CLASSES

Wednesdays at the Library, 1:30pm
\$10 members, \$15 non-members

Oct 12 & 19 — Starting Family Research. Two-session class: \$25 members, \$35 non-members.

Oct 26 — Family Tree Maker is Back

Nov 2 — Looking for German ancestors?

Nov 9 — Is DNA Your Next Step?

HISTORY LECTURES

Tuesdays at the Library, 10:30am
\$10 per person

Oct 11 — Early Explorers

Oct 18 — Cemeteries of HHI

Oct 25 — Pirates of the Lowcountry

Nov 1 — Mitchelville

Nov 8 — Gullah Culture

Nov 15 — Sea Pines 1950-1983

Nov 22 — Historic Sites

TOURS

Fort Mitchel

Thursdays at 10am
March through November
\$12 adult, \$7 children 7-12
(children under 7 not permitted)

Zion Cemetery & Baynard Mausoleum

Fridays at 10am
March through November
\$12 adult \$7 children 7-12
(children under 7 not permitted)

Bike Tours

Thursdays at 1pm
For more information,
see the ad below

The Saga of the 1890 Census

I am a member of a group that has been compiling an inventory of Beaufort, Jasper and Hampton cemeteries. While working on the project I realized that by using the birth and death information on headstones and vault covers I could identify individuals who were living when the 1890 census was taken. This census has been destroyed and for years genealogists have mourned the loss of this valuable information.



By Sunni Bond
Winkler

The 1890 census was unique in many ways. According to "First in the Path of the Firemen" by Kellee Blake (*Prologue* magazine, Vol 28 No 1) it was the first census to use punch cards and an electrical tabulation system created by Herman Hollerith. It was also the first census to not be filed in county clerks' offices as well as in D.C. and first to prepare a separate schedule for each family. Also, there were expanded questions relative to race, home ownership, ability to speak English, immigration, and naturalization. Married women were asked how many children they had had and the number living at the time of the census. There was also a question relating to Civil War Service. Many complained that these questions were invasive and there were also complaints about accuracy.

In March 1896, the 1890 census special schedules for mortality, crime, pauperism, benevolence and special classes (deaf, dumb, blind, insane), as well as portions of the transportation and insurance schedules were badly damaged by fire and destroyed by order of the Department of the Interior which had administered the 1890 census. The general population schedules were not damaged and were piled on pine shelves in an unlocked file room in the basement of the Commerce Building in Washington, D.C. On January 10, 1921 they were destroyed in almost their entirety due to a fire. The records were not only damaged by the fire, they were also damaged by the gallons of water poured into the building to extinguish it. 25 percent of the files were destroyed by the fire with 50 percent of the remainder being damaged by water and smoke.

What started the fire was never determined. Rumors of possible final destruction of the remaining 1890 census documents caused a flood of protest letters to the Secretary of Commerce, Herbert Hoover. The National Genealogical Society and The National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, formally petitioned Secretary Hoover and Congress to preserve the 1890 census. Planned destruction was constantly denied.

In January 1921 the damaged records were moved to a large warehouse where they were sure to deteriorate and certainly were not available for consultation or research. Census Director, William Steuart, arranged for their transfer back to the Commerce Building with instructions to bind the records where possible and put them in order for reference. There is no record of how, or if, the 1890 census records were used between 1922 and 1932.

In December 1932 the Chief Clerk of the Bureau of Census sent the Librarian of Congress a list of papers no longer necessary and scheduled for destruction. The Librarian had the option of reporting back a list of documents that should be retained due to their historical interest but the Librarian reported that no documents needed to be retained even though one item on that list from the Chief Clerk read, "Schedules, Population (1890), Original." On February 21, 1933 Congress authorized destruction of all the listed documents. The remaining 1890 census documents were destroyed in 1935.

I have spent about two years on my project and it is nowhere near completion. It is very time-consuming. First, one must go through an entire cemetery listing, compiling the names and dates of birth and death for those individuals born before 1890 and dying after 1890. Then, doing additional research for those on my list, I am often able to identify their parents, and in some cases grandparents, who were living in 1890. I researched siblings only when they were buried in the same cemetery. My research is making it possible to compile at least a partial listing of people in this area who would have been listed in the 1890 census.

This is not an easy task, especially when researching "common names." In the African-American community it becomes even more difficult because there are often no death certificates. Once in a great while, a headstone will tell the story of the entire family but this is rare. The use of Ancestry.com for researching individuals has been a great help.

The final document will list, in alpha order, interred individuals, who were alive when the 1890 census was taken, with their dates of birth and death, and in which cemetery they are located. Each individual's information may include family members living in 1890. The major document will include all three counties and a separate document for Hilton Head Island will be produced and made available at The Heritage Library.

I hope that these documents will be a valuable resource for the Heritage Library, the DAR Library in Washington, D.C., and the SAR Library in Louisville, KY.

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.



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Welcome to 11 New and 27 Renewal Members who have joined our Heritage Library Family.



By Laurette
Doscher-Benfante,
Membership Chair

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Jacob Ginder

Bluffton

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Margaret and Paget Higgins
Chris and Keith Wave

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OCTOBER 25TH - Change for the Better Kim Likins

For the last 15 years, Kim Likins has been a tireless changemaker for the youth of the Lowcountry. Her work at the Boys & Girls Club, The First Tee of the Lowcountry and her instrumental role in creating The Sandbox Children's Museum have all been focused on championing youth and family opportunities on Hilton Head Island. She will share her views on how to be a changemaker in the community.

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

Purchase tickets online
at **HeritageLib.org** or
CoastalDiscovery.org or
by calling **843.686.6560**



The Heritage Library is a member of the Arts and Cultural Council of Hilton Head
www.hiltonheadartsdaily.org
Enriching Our Lives with Art, Culture, and History