



# The Heritage Observer

## News from The Heritage Library

*Bringing the Past to Life*

Vol. 3, No. 1

JANUARY 2011

### Yankee Dollars: Their Effect on Postbellum South Carolina

February 1, 1:30 p.m.

*Editors Robert B. Cuthbert and Stephen Hoffius will discuss their book Northern Money, Southern Land, and sign copies at the Library Tuesday February 1 at 1:30 p.m.*



Beginning in the 1880s, wealthy Yankees brought money to South Carolina seeking land for recreation. They bought up many of the declining plantations and turned them into hunting lodges. In the 1930s, Chlotilde R. Martin of Beaufort wrote about many of them for the *Charleston News and Courier*. Her observations on the social and economic consequences of this transformation, plus the editors' own extensive knowledge of local history, make fascinating reading in the much-discussed *Northern Money, Southern Land*.

In her columns, Martin described nearly eighty plantations in Beaufort, Jasper, Hampton, Colleton, and Berkeley counties.

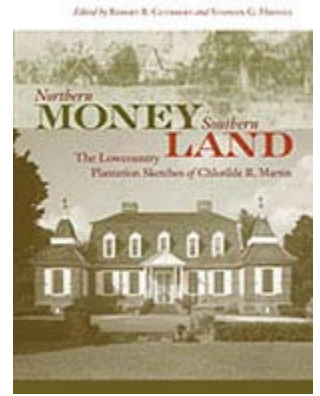
Many of these today are still in private hands, while some of them have succumbed to development. Nevertheless, the stories about them continue to intrigue us:

wealthy playboys bringing money in depressed times, "native islanders" who served them.

When Martin first wrote about Hilton Head Island, she estimated that the white population of Hilton Head and nearby Jenkins Island was only about 50.

You will want to hear the editors themselves talk about the book and sign copies here at the Library. Robert Cuthbert is an active member of the South Carolina Historical Society with a lifelong interest in the state's southern plantations. [Is there a connection with Castle Hill?]

Stephen Hoffius is the former director of publications for the South Carolina Historical Society. Among the books he has edited are memoirs, plantation and church histories, novels, and exhibition catalogs. He is co-editor with Angela D. Mack of the award-winning *Landscape of Slavery: The Plantation in American Art*. This summer the University of Georgia Press will publish *Upheaval in Charleston: Earthquake and Murder on the Eve of Jim Crow* by Hoffius and Susan Millar Williams.



272 pages, 81 illustrations. \$34.95 Published by U.S. C. Press

**“... will bring modern readers onto many little-known plantations in the southern part of South Carolina”**

THE PUBLISHER

**Annual Meeting**  
**Heritage Library Foundation**  
**10:00 a.m. February 23, 2011**  
**See Page 4**

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

## Award from Bargain Box Lets Us Replace Outdated Server

The Bargain Box, Inc. of Hilton Head has awarded our Foundation a much appreciated and substantial grant for the purchase of a new server to support our operations. The server is at the core of our computer and internet systems and performs a “mission critical” task on our network. It supports both our in-house research and informational network of computers, but also the world-wide group of visitors to our web site. We estimate that, between in-house usage and the increased usage of our new Web site, we provide as many as 11,000 useful accesses to our information yearly.

The remainder of the funding required to install the new server will come from the memorial gifts made to honor our recent Past President, the late Mrs. G. Norma Harberger.

The replacement was needed because the existing server is performing “mission critical” operations, is at the end of its life cycle and lacks updated capabilities. It is a 1.2GHz unbranded system with limited memory and no warranty. It provides no backup and as a result we had to make special and expensive backup arrangements. It also makes us vulnerable since when it goes down (as it has several times recently) no one can log in to the network. The new server will enable us to operate with appropriate safeguards for the integrity of our data and services, as well as to improve the design of our computer networks.

This award is the latest in a series of significant donations that the Bargain Box has made to our Foundation over the years. Like our Foundation, the Bargain Box is run by volunteers. It was first thrift store of its kind on the Island, established in 1965 to serve the less fortunate. It has given over \$11 million in cash grants to local charities and social agencies, as well as providing other tangible resources for those organizations.

ROBERT P. “BOB” SMITH



## FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

## News of Members and Volunteers

Many thanks to those members who have renewed their memberships on time. We try to send out notices approximately one month before the expiration date and if not renewed within 60 days we send out a reminder letter. If we get no response after another 30 days we place members on the inactive list. We keep a roster at the front desk so if you are not sure please call and the person at the desk can give you your expiration date. If you feel it is wrong please tell them and we will check to be sure the roster is correct. Believe it or not we do occasionally slip up.

In the last issue of the *Observer* we mentioned the need for volunteers to work on the World’s Largest Yard Sale sponsored by the *Island Packet*. It will be held on Saturday March 26 from 9-1 with set up between 7 and 8:30 a.m. We have several who have already volunteered but we do need more – the old adage “many hands make light work” definitely applies here.

The other major part of that day is selling merchandise and that comes from all of us, plus our friends and neighbors. Please ask them to check drawers, closets, attics and garages. We do not take clothes or hard back books (except for cook books). Items we do take include jewelry, dishes, knick-knacks, toys, glassware and other treasures you are ready to part with for a worthy cause.

Please call me at 686-6560 or 689-9558 for pick up or bring to the Library during our regular hours: 10-3 Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Any questions or to volunteer call me.

GWEN ALTSTAETTER



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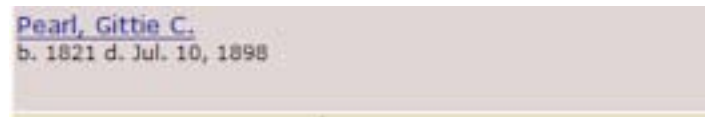
## Have You Tried “Find a Grave”?

by Carol Clemens

“Find a Grave” is a free Web site that might be very helpful in your genealogy research. The site provides photos of gravestones and cemetery information submitted by volunteers. For me, it helped fill in some pieces of one branch of my husband’s family.

Let’s take a quick look at how to use this site when all you have is a name.

1. Go to: <http://www.findagrave.com>
2. From the opening page, look in the second column under “*FIND GRAVES*” and click on the first option: “Search 55 million grave records.”
3. A search screen opens. While there are various search options, let’s begin by searching just for a name. For this example, I entered Gittie Pearl. All I knew was that Gittie Blasier, who was born around 1820 in New York, married someone named Pearl and “moved away”. Look what I found!



How many Gittie Pearl’s could there be who were born around 1820? Let’s look into this one.

Birth:	1821 New York, USA
Death:	Jul. 10, 1898 Rock County Wisconsin, USA
She was the wife of William Pearl, Sr. Died age 77. I have estimated her year of birth.	
Burial:	<a href="#">Oak Hill Cemetery</a> Janesville Rock County Wisconsin, USA Plot: block 286, lot 9, grave 4 (unmarked)

*Editor’s Note: The “I” in the comment above is the volunteer who added this information to the FindAGrave site. Note that this estimate of birth date fits with Carol’s information about her husband’s family. One of the thrills of genealogical research is making such connections.*

4. Click on the person’s name underlined in blue and more information appears.

This seems to fit with the information I started with, including the fact that she was born in New York. It also tells me she was the wife of William and her date of death. This explains why she was not in the 1900 census. I used much of this information to check other census data to confirm that this is the right person.

6. Next step is to click on the name of the cemetery in the blue link. This opens a search box just for that cemetery. Now, enter the last name of PEARL—no first name. This brings up 10 records of Pearls buried in that cemetery.

7. Click on each one and see what you find. By reading the information on each one, I was able to piece together the family. The site provides tidbits you won’t find in the census—such as that Gittie and William’s son, William Jr., fought in the Civil War and was wounded at Resaca, Georgia in 1864. Use the bits and pieces you find as springboards for further research to be sure you have pieced things together properly.

8. If you are lucky, there may be photos of the gravestones. You can easily save the photos to your computer and add them to your Family Tree Maker files. To save a photo, double click on it to open it to a larger size. Then right click (Control-Click on Mac) anyplace on the photo and from the options that appear, click on *Save Photo As*. It should open a box where you give it a

*Cont’d on Page 4*



*This photo of the gravestone of William Pearl, Jr. was posted by a volunteer. The date and the “Jr” lead us to the reasonable conclusion that this grave houses the son of William and Gittie Pearl.*

**Note:** *This photo is copyrighted by the contributor to FindAGrave, as are all photos on that Web site. You may download such photos for personal use, such as in your Family Tree Maker, but you may not use them in publications or other Web sites without permission. Used here by permission.*



*Find-A Grave, Cont'd from Page 3*

name such as WilliamPearlgrave.jpg and select where to save it.

Remember: *Always* save photos in MyPICTURES (IPHOTO or another folder in Mac) so you can find them. I suggest creating a subfolder in MyPictures and call it "FindAGrave," then always put photos from this site into that folder so you can then find them to add to your FTM tree.

9. Sometimes there is no photo of the actual gravestone. Unless it states that the grave is unmarked, there might be a stone that no one has photographed. If you create a free account for this site, you can place a photo request.

Once you do that, an email is sent to anyone in the area who has volunteered to photograph gravestones. If someone accepts the request, they will shoot the photo and post it for you....and there is no cost!

I have found Find a Grave to be a very helpful site. It has provided photos of gravestones and pieces of information to aid my research. Try it and see what you find!

Maybe you could even go one step further and share the photos of graves you have taken with others by posting them on the site.

**Note:** In using this site, be sure to read through the FAQs, Frequently Asked Questions, in order to comply with that site's regulations.

Have questions or need help with Find a Grave? Contact me at: cclemons318@roadrunner.com

CAROL CLEMENS

**Editor's Note:**

Carol Clemens is one of the Foundation's valued volunteers who frequently leads workshops at the Library on genealogy. Consult our Web site, heritagelib.org, for notices of such workshops.

This article is the first of a series that Carol will write for us from time to time with tips and advice for searching your roots and preserving your family history. We look forward to them.

## FROM THE SECRETARY

## Annual Meeting

### Wednesday February 23

Please attend or send your proxy

The annual meeting of members of the Heritage Library Foundation will be held at the Library on Wednesday February 23 at 10:00 a.m. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect directors to serve the three year term 2011-2014. and such other business as may come before the members. There is also a vacancy to be filled in the term ending in 2012 due to resignation

If you cannot attend, please send your proxy. Copies are available at the front desk, or online after February 1.

**Chipman "Chip" Collins**

Chip recently sent us his regrets that a full schedule with his realty company meant he must resign his post on our board. We, too, regret losing him and thank him for all his help in the past. He is our neighbor in the Savannah Bank Building and promises that we may still call on him for advice and counsel.

Chip had one year remaining in his term, and the nominating committee has asked Bill Altstaetter to serve out the remainder of his term.

**Nominees**

The Nominating Committee presents the following names for your consideration. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.

*For a one-year term ending in 2012  
(replacing Chip Collins):*

**E. W. "Bill" Altstaetter**

Bill Altstaetter, past president and one of the founders of the Heritage Library Foundation, needs no introduction to most of our members. After retiring from the presidency he continued to serve the Foundation in many capacities, most recently as Advisor to the President and Chairman of the Board of Advisors. His life-long interest in history and intimate knowledge of our Island's history have been invaluable to the Foundation and we appreciate his stepping once more into the breach.

*Cont'd on Page 5*

*Nominees (Cont'd from Page 4)*

*For three-year terms ending in 2014:*

### **William W. Standen**

Bill Standen grew up in Elyria, Ohio, graduated from Cornell University with a degree in Economics, and served three years aboard a destroyer in the U.S. Navy. For thirty-five years he owned an insurance brokerage firm; during that time he often vacationed in Hilton Head.

In 1996 he sold his business and he and his wife, the former Sheila Condon, moved to Hilton Head permanently. Since arriving on the Island he has been involved with Habitat for Humanity, Sea Pines Country Club, International Piano Competition, League of the Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra, Hinton Head Choral Society, Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra and Second Helpings. He served as treasurer for International Piano Competition and for the League of the Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra. He also served on the Orchestra's Finance Committee.

He says of the Heritage Library, "My first connection with the Heritage Library was doing research on my mother's family in order to qualify as a Son of the American Revolution. This led to research on my father's family as well as my wife's family. Along the way, I realized the outstanding work the Library was doing, not only in family research, but in organizing and preserving the history of the Low Country and beyond. As some of my other responsibilities lessened, I felt a need to become more involved with the Library and am honored to be asked to serve on the Board."

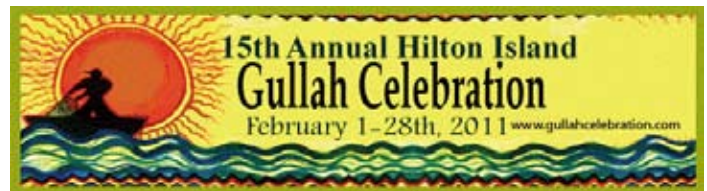
### **Harvey Varnet**

Harvey Varnet, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University of South Carolina, Beaufort, brings us his extensive knowledge of libraries, with experience in four states and three foreign countries. In 1979-80, he was a Fulbright Professor at the University of Calabar, Nigeria. In the mid-1980s, Harvey worked on the building of the first university in Oman, Sultan Qaboos University. His most recent experience, just prior to coming to USCB, was as Library Director at the American University of Kuwait. His forty years of library experience is valuable to us, especially in planning the move to our new quarters. He also serves on the HLF Nominating Committee.

### **Iva Roberts Welton**

Iva Welton brings us a wealth of experience in public relations and marketing as well as history. A long-time member of the Hilton Head Historical Society (which merged with the Foundation in 2005), she is a lifetime member of the Heritage Library Foundation, past president of the Beaufort County Historical Society, and a member of the board of trustees of Historic Beaufort County. She has served two previous terms on the HLF board, is director of community relations and the Foundation's representative to the Arts and Cultural Committee of the Hilton Head Chamber of Commerce.

NANCY M. BURKE  
SECRETARY



**February 23, 2011**

**1:30 p.m.**

### **Questions and Answers on Researching African-American Ancestry**

John Griffin, a researcher at the Heritage Library, has helped many Native Islanders find ancestors who toiled on the antebellum plantations of this area.

This is part of the month-long Gullah Celebration on Hilton Head. Come and hear him and get tips on how to find those ancestors whose names are so difficult to determine.

You can find more information on the Gullah Celebration at <http://www.gullahcelebration.com>

## THE LIBRARIAN'S CORNER

**We Get Letters . . .**

And phone calls.

And faxes.

And email.

The Heritage Library offers its services far beyond its physical limits. A number of inquiries have been received during the past few months from persons searching the Web, or from members living in other states.

Some typical inquiries:

One such inquiry came from a professor at Tulane University. He was looking for information on the first professor of chemistry at Tulane, a John Caldwell, and had discovered that our Library had a Caldwell collection. We were able to fax him some biographical material to amplify his history of the Chemistry Department.

Another request came from someone researching the activities of an ancestor who served in the Civil War. A letter from this soldier (a drummer boy in the 3rd New Hampshire Regiment) referred to posts on Hilton Head and "Botany Island", which we were able to identify as Botany Bay Island.

A recent phone call from Atlanta asked for information to prove eligibility to join the Sons of the Confederacy, and an email from Texas concerned the location of a plantation on the May River in Bluffton, called Pineland.

Another caller contacted us looking for an ancestor who had lived in Spartanburg in the early 19th century and whom she had been unable to locate on a census. We found a reference to his marriage in our book collection.

We are encouraged to know that the Heritage Library's resources are being found via the Internet, and are pleased to research any inquiries.

ISOBEL BITNER

Contribute unwanted knick-knacks, etc. to

**The World's Largest Yard Sale**

sponsored by the *Island Packet*

A great way to help support your Library

Bring to the Library by March 24

## A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

**Update Those Family Photos**

Besides all those photos in your camera or on your laptop, do you have an old shoebox or trunk or an envelope in a file drawer filled with black-and-white photos? Mostly unidentified? Or old colored photos that have begun to fade?

Those photos will be invaluable in later years to your children and grandchildren. They will provide glimpses into what life was like for you, your parents and grandparents – but not if no one knows who the photos represent. In which case they are likely to be recycled and thus lost forever.

For a New Year's resolution, why not dig out that box of old photos and try to identify them? Note on the back of the photo the person's name, relationship to others in the family, and approximate date. (Don't use a ball point or other pen that will press deeply into the back of the photo.) Often you will be unable to pin down a date exactly, but even an approximation will be



*Con't on Page 7*

*This is an excellent example of a photo whose date can be approximated by its details. I am trying to date this photograph which I suspect is before the Flapper age of the 1920s. The hemline (mid-calf), the waistline (neither dropped as in the 20s or raised as in earlier and Empire styles), the hairdo, and the smart boots are all clues. I suspect this will turn out to be from around 1917-18. I may be able to tell more when I can find her birth date.*



*Family Photos (Cont'd from Page 6)*  
helpful to those who are looking at the photos in the future.

Other members of the family can probably help you identify some of those mysterious people. If pictures are very old you can sometimes approximate the dates by clothing, hair styles, or automobiles.

Note that color photos fade. Always. Dyes used have been improved but experts believe that at best color photos are good for fifty years. You can find tips on preserving them from government archives at <http://www.archives.gov/preservation/formats/photographs.html>

Sometimes you'll have to settle for poor copies, if that's all that's available. In the example below, there is little detail, but hints of another era and lifestyle.

A genealogist writes: "I can't tell you how many times I have heard the phrase 'I wish they had written on the backs of these photos who the people are.'" Don't do a similar disservice to your descendants, make sure the important family events are preserved for them."

BARBARA MULLER



*Sometimes you have very little to work with. A cousin sent me a Xerox (!) copy of this family portrait. From what I know of the persons depicted, this photo was probably made in a studio in Scotland about 1890. When all you have is a record like this scanning it into your computer may be the only way to save it. And your cousins—including future ones—will appreciate it.*

## Birdies for Charity [for the Heritage Library]



The annual golf tournament on Hilton Head, the Heritage Classic, sets aside a sum to be distributed to the recipients of Birdies for Charity as a part of their charitable work. This year they have again designated the Heritage Library Foundation to be a recipient.

Because the Heritage Classic distributes these funds based on the amount contributed by participants in Birdies for Charity, this means that any contribution you make will be enhanced by funds contributed from the Heritage Classic.

It works like this: you pledge either a fixed amount or a per-birdie amount of any size for each birdie (one under par) made during the four tournament rounds. You fill out a pledge card designating the Heritage Library as your choice. After the tournament is over, the Heritage Classic will send you a bill for your contribution. (In 2010 there were 1454 birdies.)

This contribution goes into the pot that determines how much the Heritage Classic gives us. **Thus the larger your contribution, the more we will receive from this program.**

If you are planning a contribution later this year, you may want to move it up to "Birdies for Charity" to increase its effectiveness.

The tournament this year is April 18-24. Pledge forms will be available at the front desk at the Library.

## The Equine Exposition

We have just been notified that the Heritage Library will once again be a recipient of funds from this popular event at Rose Hill. The event features exhibitions of dressage and other displays of horsemanship, including a polo game. Because the amount we receive depends on our participation (tickets sold, ads sold, sponsor packages), this event becomes a great way to entertain as well as helping the Library.

This year the organizers have scheduled the event for May 1, hoping thus to avoid the spring storms that are typical of the area. We'll have more details when they are finalized.

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## Spring Classes

### January 26: Using Family Tree Maker 2010

With Carol Clemens. Whatever version of FTM you are using, this class can be helpful. Learn how to easily prepare and print charts, reports, timelines etc., and instantly add on-line information and sources to your tree without having to enter data by hand. You will need basic computer skills for this class.

\$30 for non-members, \$25 for members

### February 2: Effective Use of the Internet

With Linda Piekut. Types of Web sites where genealogical material might be found, what's new, how to identify good from the bad information. Effective Web searching techniques.

\$30 non-members, \$25 members

### February 9: "Pieces of Your Past" Booklet

With Carol Clemens. Requires MSWord 2007. Tools this program makes available for creating booklets, including "print screen," cropping and resizing, and other useful details. \$30 non-members, \$25 members

### February 16: Creating Great Gifts

With Carol Clemens. Learn how to make unique gifts to share family research with family members.

\$30 non-members, \$25 members.

For more information on classes, call 843 686-6560

## Upcoming Events at Coastal Discovery Museum

January 22:; What the Heck is It? Artifact identification.

January 28: Creature Feature (for children 7-10) Pizza Party, Owl Stories, Nature Walk. \$25

February 26: Lowcountry Breeds. Exhibits of Marsh Tackies and other Lowcountry animals.

February 27: 3rd Annual Marsh Tacky Run at Coligny Beach.

For more information on these events, go to <http://www.coastaldiscovery.org/> or call (843) 689-3033 x 228

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**The Heritage Library Foundation**

**852 Wm. Hilton Parkway**

**Hilton Head Island SC 29928**