



# The Heritage Observer

## News from The Heritage Library

*Bringing the Past to Life*

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MAY 2010

### More Honors for Emory Campbell



*Emory Campbell receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2007 as part of the Preserving Our HIstory awards by the South Carolina African American Commission. Photo by Abel Barkley*

Twice this month Emory Campbell's many contributions to the preservation of Gullah history have been recognized. Earlier he was re-elected chairman of the Gullah-Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission. The Corridor is a congressionally designated National Heritage Area, comprising coastal areas from Wilmington NC to Jacksonville FL.

Then on May 22 he was honored, along with former Vice President Al Gore, at the fourth annual South Carolina Aquarium Environmental Stewardship Awards Gala in Charleston. While Dr. Campbell praised the aquarium group for their work with children, a spokesperson for the aquarium said Campbell was being recognized for his work preserving Gullah lands on the Sea Islands.

Gore was recognized with a Legacy Award for his lifelong work promoting conservation.

Among his many activities, Campbell serves on the advisory board of the Heritage Library Foundation.

### May is Preservation Month

The National Trust for Historic Preservation's theme this year is "Old is the new Green" -- preservation, in addition to being a good thing economically, is good for the environment. We deal with many preservation goals in this issue: problems with the Baynard Mausoleum (Page 6) the preservation of vital historic records (see Page 4) and the efforts to preserve the Little House on Gumtree Road. (see Page 7.)



*The Heritage Library president, Bob Smith, prepares to tell a capacity crowd about the invasion of Hilton Head Island by the Union in 1861. So many people were turned away from his first talk that a repeat was scheduled the following week, and it too filled the room.*

### "Bravo" History Talks Are Big Hit

We offered three history lectures during the Bravo celebration of arts and culture on Hilton Head Island, and they were all extremely popular.

First on the schedule was Bill Altstaetter, who reviewed the Indian presence here and the subsequent colonial era. One highlight of his presentation was a description of the trade that developed between Spanish and English colonials and the local Native Americans. The Indians especially needed items of iron (pots and axes) and beads, for which they traded deerskins. An interesting aspect of this trade the development of rather sophisticated contracts—what today we might call "mortgages"—promises to pay later, on the part of the Indians. As they reduced the deer population for skins to trade, it became harder and harder to find enough deer, and eventually the Indians resorted to promising to pay with "next year's" deerskins. Predictably, this debt eventually became impossible to meet,

*Cont'd on Page 2*

*Bravo History Talks (Cont'd from Page 1)*



*Natie Hefter of the Coastal Discovery Museum, drew a crowd for her talk on "After the Bridges," part of the Bravo series offered by the Heritage Library.*

and deadly conflicts arose between settlers and natives.

The following week Bob Smith's talk on the Civil War drew an overflow crowd, Bob repeated it the next week, again filling the room.

The invasion, in November 1861, of Hilton Head Island by the Union was the largest amphibious operation undertaken up to that time. It took only a few hours for the small forts here to surrender, and for the plantation owners to flee. Hilton Head then became the Union headquarters for what was called the Department of the South.

The population of the island swelled with soldiers and sailors stationed here, while many former slaves sought refuge here. The attendees were especially amazed that an army baseball game on Christmas Day in 1862 reportedly drew a crowd of 40,000, which inspired a writer from the *Island Packet* to reflect on the history of the game (see Page 8)

On May 19, Natalie Hefter presented an overview of development on the Island following the building of the bridges, and our Bravo celebration concluded with Open Houses the week of May 24.

## THEY FINALLY PLAYED

### Polo Match May 16



*Photo by Jay Karr, reprinted with permission of The Island Packet*

The polo exhibition game, part of the Equestrian Exposition at Rose Hill, was supposed to be played on March 21, but it rained. Then it was supposed to be played March 28, but again it rained. After one more postponement, it was finally played before an enthusiastic crowd on May 16.

Exciting action was captured by Jay Karr, showing members of the Land Rover, in yellow, and Capital Printing, in white converging on the ball. Players pictured are, from left, Lito Salatino, Brian Limehouse, Chip Limehouse, Dean Kelso, and Rodrigo Salinas.

Heritage Library Foundation is one of the beneficiaries of this annual Exposition for charity, and we are grateful to Dr. Sandy Termotto and his team for the contribution the event makes to our community, the opportunity to entertain friends, and the fun that goes with the entire package. The Library also thanks Tom Senf and Iva Welton for selling ads on the Library's behalf.

The Library's participation was also enhanced by our members who bought a total of eight patron packages; a portion of such sales is returned to the Library.

Iva Welton says, "Please join us as a patron next year. to enjoy the game and help support the Library." Call her at 671-4865.



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## THE LIBRARIAN'S CORNER\*

## Recent Additions

Two significant books that have recently been donated to the Library will be of interest to many of our members.



*Vital Rails: The Charleston and Savannah Railroad and the Civil War in Coastal South Carolina*, (H. David Stone, 2008).

Completed in 1860, the Charleston and Savannah Railroad was founded by a group of Low Country planters and merchants, headed by Thomas Drayton and Charles Colcock. When the Civil War erupted, the railroad was fortified by General Robert E. Lee, and subsequently played a vital role as the transportation link for the Confederacy. It was frequently attacked by Union forces, but the link remained in Confederate hands, until General William Sherman captured Savannah in December of 1864.

The book is a complete history of the railroad, though a major portion deals with its importance during the Civil War and the military actions and battles around it. After the War, the railroad had to deal with severe economic problems, but eventually recovered its importance, and today is still in existence as the CSX Transportation Railroad.

*An Intensive Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of Paul Brown Homesite, Spanish Wells Road, Hilton Head Island*. (William Barr & Carole Bastian, 2008).

What started out as an archaeological survey for a planned condominium complex on Hilton Head, this report has been expanded into a significant study of much of the surrounding area between Broad Creek and Old House Creek. There are exhaustive sections on the archaeology, history, environment, and land tenure of the area, as well as summaries of previous studies done on the site, with excellent maps, interesting illustrations, and a good bibliography.

It is a valuable addition to our collection. Both the Heritage Library and the Beaufort County Library are acknowledged as providing research assistance in the preparation of the report.

ISOBEL BITNER

*Editor's Note: The acknowledgement section of this book specifically thanks Isobel and Bill Alstaetter for help.*

## FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

## Members Make Our Library



These past few months have been filled with workshops and lectures which have attracted several new members to the Library. We appreciate the support of our members attending and those who brought friends to introduce them

to the wonderful world of family research.

It's always a delight to list new members and returning members. If you see a friend's name be sure to give them an extra welcome! It's nice to have back old friends David White, Marilyn Hayes, Ralph Huppert, Lee and Stella Anderson, and Lois and Bart Bubnell. New to the Library are: Philip Alling, Maureen Wilburn, Janet Henry, William Jenkins, Phyllis Patterson, Virginia Cuthbertson, John Dwyer. Priscilla Russo, who has been volunteering in the publicity department (many thanks to her for giving of her expertise in that field) has also become a member. From Tennessee we welcome Malinda Fanslow.

Once again we are putting out the call for more volunteers. This summer we will have to close on Saturdays for lack of staff unless someone can help us fill this gap. Isobel Bitner and Nancy Burke have been putting in many extra hours during this winter/spring season, for which they deserve extra and heart-felt thanks.

To all of you who have renewed your memberships many thanks. Your support helps us to keep up the standards set by our founders, and of course if you have some time to volunteer that would be appreciated.

*Try it—you might like it!"*

GWEN ALTSTAETTER

## Premiere Members' Passwords

A number of members have requested a way to personalize their own passwords. We are developing a way for you to do that which should be ready in a few days. As soon as it is implemented you will be notified by email.

**A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT:****What is “Preservation”?**

Part of our mission at the Heritage Library Foundation (HLF) is historic preservation. Lately we have been examining just what that phrase means.

Basically, it would seem that it refers to *physical* repairs and restorations, such as restoring the old cemetery and mausoleum at Zion Chapel of Ease site.

But we realize that preservation actually means much more: it also embraces the ongoing activities of our genealogy and history center. Here *preservation* means finding, acquiring, and organizing the *historical record*, data about the events of our history and people, making the information available and useful to the academic or casual searcher.

**Filed and Forgotten?**

One example: certain records vital to understanding what went on here were shipped off to the National Archives in the 1800s to be stashed away among mountains of other data, not to be seen again for decades.

So I was thrilled, a few years ago, to discover and acquire some of those records for our Library. I was at the branch of the National Archives in College Park, Maryland, when the archivist brought out, on a great rolling table cart, an immense pile of notebooks containing certificates issued by the Freedman’s Bureau. These recorded the first sales by that bureau to freed slaves in this area during the Civil War. Buried therein was a little book containing indices for the certificates, an index that, until then, few people were aware existed.

**Volunteer Satisfaction**

Bringing back these records specific to Hilton Head was a source of great satisfaction, for it opened up to us a whole group of records previously inaccessible. They are useful to our Native Islanders in researching their heritage. We are digitizing them to make them easily available for researchers, another example of historic preservation.

As you read this, please consider the potential satisfaction awaiting you if you undertake volunteer activities at our Library. Your participation can be tailored to your schedule and interests. Some of our best volunteers give only a few hours per week, but they do it with steady devotion, gradually learning more and more of

the fascinating information available here. Besides fun and cultural growth, they meet new friends and gain a sense of achievement from volunteering at our beautiful Library.

Think about it and call today, 843-686-6560. We need your help.

BOB SMITH

**The Civil War Sesquicentennial**

Starting in 2011, and continuing through 2015, communities across the country will be holding events commemorating the Civil War. There are so many sites here in our own Beaufort County that would lend themselves to such commemorations: from the Secession Oak to the amphibious invasion of Hilton Head to the site of the reading of the Emancipation Declaration.

Read about Bob Smith’s presentation on the Civil War on Page 2, and Laura Nahmias’ take on baseball and the Civil War on Page 8.

For those doing research in preparation for the Sesquicentennial, there are many materials available in the Heritage Library.

**New England Historic Genealogical Society**

Those of you with members of your family tree in New England will be glad to know that a generous donor has given the Heritage Library a one-year subscription to the Society.

When you come into our Library, you will thus be able to access the NEHGS Web site and their many exhibits and voluminous data bases.

**“I trust that in a few years more we shall...begin to perceive that our duty is to preserve what the past has had to say for itself and to say for ourselves also what shall be true for the future.”**

JOHN RUSKIN

## Searching Our Catalog On-Line

A leisurely browse through the Heritage Library's extensive collection will amaze you at the wealth of material to be found here. This can be done by browsing our shelves, but the quickest way to do this is through the on-line catalog.

This catalog is maintained by Library World. When you click on "Search Our Catalog," you will be taken to the Library World, which lists all our holdings: books, microfilms, maps, DVDs and CDs, except those which may be awaiting processing. It also links to pertinent Web sites. The information listed for each item includes the call number and its shelf location.

This catalog allows searches by keywords. When an item is added to our collection, a list is made of the principal subjects addressed. These are *keywords*. To find items pertaining to your interest, enter in "All words" (the first item on the drop-down menu) one or more keywords. Examples of keywords include *slavery, reconstruction, Hilton Head* (162 listings), *African-American, churches, and cemeteries*.



*This generic image indicates a book. Some images show book's actual cover*

In addition to searches by keywords, use the drop-down menu to search by author or title. You can even search using the first few words of a title: "Title begins with."

In some cases, keywords may turn up so many references as to be unwieldy; for example, "Civil War" turns up 392 listings. In such a case, you may wish to narrow your search. For example, "Civil War Battles" returns 107 entries, while "Gettysburg" returns 13. "Civil War Women" turns up 4 entries.

### Web Links:

Among the most useful items in the catalog are Web links. When you see an entry such as *Census online: your guide to online census records*, you'll also see, under "Call number," the phrase "Web Link" When



*This generic image indicates a map. Note that there are also many maps on CDs.*

you click on the title, up comes what looks just like a card from a library catalog. (Remember them?) On that card will be a URL, the address where you will

find Census Online. Clicking on that address will take you directly to the Web site in a new window.



*This generic image may refer to a Web link, a microfilm, or a DVD or CD.*

## Unique Items in the Heritage Library

You will also find here indexes compiled by the staff of the Heritage Library. One such, reached with the keywords "U. S. Army," is Burial orders and burial locations, Beaufort County, South Carolina, 1861-1865. This is an index (presently under review) to the orders of burial for those who died at Hilton Head Military Hospitals including members of the U. S. Army, U. S. Navy, United States Colored Troops (USCT), state militias, confederate prisoners, civilian government employees, and refugees. This index also shows up in a search with the keyword Hospitals.

A search for Plantations will lead to you an index of antebellum plantations on the island, compiled by Lyman Wooster, a volunteer who, though retired, still writes for the Heritage Library's *Glimpses*.

Other indexes of material specific to Hilton Head are being prepared by Library volunteers and are added to the catalog when complete.

## This Library is Not Limited to Hilton Head

There are many unusual items to be found among the holdings, which are by no means limited to Hilton Head or even to South Carolina.

We find 425 listings for Virginia, 361 for Ireland, and 107 for Germany. "World War" brings up 33 listings for the two World Wars, "American Revolution" brings up 91. "Immigrants" brings up 187 including some passenger lists.

Remember that CDs, many from Family Tree Maker, can contain vast amounts of data.

The search for "Hospitals," mentioned above, also turned up a reprint of an 1888 publication of a biography of a nurse who served during the Civil War: *Memories: a record of personal experience and adventure during four years of war* by Fannie A. Beers.

These few examples hardly scratch the surface of the wealth of material that may reward your search. Happy browsing!





**PATRIOTS & PLANTERS  
WALK AT ZION CHAPEL**

**But Baynard Mausoleum  
Urgently Needs Repair**

The Patriot and Planters Walk at the Zion Chapel of Ease site on May 28, sponsored jointly by the Heritage Library Foundation and the Coastal Discovery Museum, was another sell-out, with would-be walkers being turned away.

As was pointed out on the walk, the Baynard Mausoleum, where members of the Baynard family were entombed, is the oldest intact structure remaining on the Island. However, it is desperately in need of repair.



*Vines growing across the roof of the Baynard Mausoleum are visible from the rear of the mausoleum. The vines not only partially obscure the roof damage, their roots contribute to further damage. The Heritage Library Foundation, owners of the site, is seeking funds to make urgently-needed repairs of the oldest extant structure on the Island.*

The giant stone slabs of the roof need to be shored up; to do this, it will be necessary to bring in equipment capable of lifting up the slabs so that a proper support for the roof can be built and the roof slabs returned. There are other details, such as repointing the stone, that can then be accomplished.

As Iva Welton, one of the directors of the Heritage Library Foundation which owns the site, said, "It is really extremely important that the community get behind the effort to save this historical gem from collapse and insure the grounds are maintained. The first thing that needs to be done is to save the roof." The Foundation is a non-profit with severely limited funds and is seeking grants to help with the preservation of this historical structure.



*Part of the capacity crowd on a May 28 walk gathers near the headwaters of Broad Creek to hear Natalie Hefter of the Coastal Discovery Museum (in blue tee shirt) talk of the history of the site. This was the last talk for the spring; walks will resume in September.*

Participants in the walks heard about Captain William Hilton's naming of the Island, the first encounters with the Native Americans, Spanish and French settlers, plantation life, slavery and Gullah culture, and the history of the Chapel of Ease.

That building was a wooden structure 30 by 40 feet. It was likely dismantled shortly after the Civil War. But the site containing the cemetery remains. It has been preserved by, first, the Hilton Head Historical Society and, later, by the Heritage Library Foundation when it absorbed the Society.

There are other points of historical interest on the site.

In an article in the *Island Packet* by Amy Coyne Bredeson, Bob Smith is quoted as saying the 10-by-10-inch stone marker at the site appears to be the only surviving 1867-1869 survey landmark. It serves as the reference for any work done using the maps drawn from the 1867-1869 Direct Tax Commission Survey. He said the maps established the grid system that was used for Beaufort County's real estate records for at least a century.

The Patriots and Planters Walk is scheduled to resume on Fridays in September. Admission is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children. For more information, call 843 689-6767, Ext. 223.





*In the rural South in the 20s and 30s, it was common for people—relatives, friends, neighbors—to get together to build a small house such as this for a new couple starting out. Their first house might be divided into two rooms, and a lean-to kitchen added later. The Little House was originally one room. Work in progress photos May 30, 2010 by Barbara Muller.*

### Work Begins on “Little House”

The Hilton Head Area Home Builders’ Association has begun work on the preservation of the Little House (as it is known) on Gumtree Road. Carrie Hirsch, Treasurer of the Gullah Museum Hilton Head Island (GMHHI), sends us information on the progress and plans of the Museum.

Originally only one room (a kitchen was added later) the house was built in 1930 for an uncle of Louise Miller Cohen, founder of the Gullah Museum. Although there has been much construction since then around the house, one still gets a sense of the peaceful woods in which it sat originally. Of course, there would have been no electricity or running water at the time.

The Little House is part of a multi-phase project which is planned to include two migrant farm houses, which housed families who traveled seasonally to Hilton Head Island to harvest tomatoes and other crops, an open-air pavilion, a praise house, and a garden with indigenous plants and flowers.

We will keep you up-to-date with restoration which is expected to be completed this fall. A celebration is planned with a pie baking contest and a “Juke Joint” night on October 2. If you would like more information or to be added to the GMHHI’s mailing list, please call Louise Miller Cohen at 843-681-3254.



#### LATE NEWS:

### The Marsh Tacky: State Heritage Horse

At this writing, the Marsh Tacky lacks only the governor’s signature to a bill to become the State Heritage Horse of South Carolina. This doughty horse is the descendant of horses brought here by Spanish colonials.

## That Old Ball Game on Hilton Head

An item in Bob Smith's talk about the Civil War (see Page 2) about a huge crowd that attended a baseball game in Hilton Head on Christmas Day in 1862 inspired Laura Nahmias, a writer for the *Island Packet*, to delve into the history of baseball. Nahmias, who often writes about history, turned her research into a story headlined "The (Really) Old Ball Game." (<http://www.islandpacket.com/2010/05/21/1248288/hilton-head-swung-for-the-fences.html>)

She made the point that it was the Civil War that spread the popularity of the game that was to become "America's pastime." According to the online Baseball Almanac ([www.baseball-almanac.com](http://www.baseball-almanac.com)), before the Civil War ball games had largely been a "High Society pastime" played by "gentlemen." But baseball was democratic: "both officers and enlisted men played side by side and soldiers earned their places on the team because of their athletic talents, not their military rank or social standing."

The Baseball Almanac says of the Christmas Day ball

game that it was "One of the biggest attended sporting events of the nineteenth century . . . when the 165th New York Volunteer Regiment (Zouaves) played at Hilton Head, South Carolina with more than 40,000 troops looking on. The Zouaves' opponent was a team composed of men selected from other Union regiments. Interestingly, A.G. Mills, who would later become the president of the National League, participated in the game."

*Below, Union soldiers participating in a ball game at a prison camp in North Carolina. From the Library of Congress.*



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