



HERITAGE LIBRARY

News

A Publication of The Heritage Library Foundation, Inc.

Volume XI Issue 2

Summer 2007

Heritage Library

Annual Fund Campaign Update

Treasurer Ben Russell reporting the early results of our Annual Appeal which went out to the membership at the beginning of May commented, "First results are good, but now the summer doldrums seem to be slowing the response."

Our annual appeal to the membership and our friends for *operating funds*, read that as "the where with all to pay the rent," is now in progress. The first rush of replies have come in. Some 53 members heard the call and responded quickly with a total of \$16,183 in donations plus an added \$12,500 pledged for receipt later in the year. The total to date stands at \$28,683. So,

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Foundation Announces Plans for First Annual Hilton Head Island Heritage Festival in Celebration of its Tenth Anniversary

The One and Only Tommy Dorsey Orchestra to play at the Gala Birthday Dinner Dance in the Grand Ballroom of the Westin Hilton Head Resort and Spa

First Annual HHI HERITAGE FESTIVAL at Historic Honey Horn

Celebrating the History and Heritage of Hilton Head Island and the Lowcountry

***Sunday, October 7th
11:30am –5:00pm***

*Opening Ceremonies & Parade
Bi-Plane Fly Over
Historical Reenactments
American Indian &
Gullah participation
Lowcountry Crafts & Exhibits
Music: Bagpipes & Blues
Gospel & Jazz
Patriotic & Hilton Head Schools
Southern & Regional Food Vendors*

*\$7.00 Adults, 12 & under Free
Parking \$3.00 per car*

www.hhiheritagefestival.org

(843) 686-6560



The Legendary "TD" present only in memory, his music is real

The Heritage Library Foundation will celebrate its 10th Anniversary with a Gala Festival Weekend, October 5-7, 2007. Proceeds from the weekend events will benefit the ongoing activities of this history and family heritage research center on Hilton Head Island, largest of its kind in southern South Carolina.

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Heritage Library Foundation, Inc.
Board of Directors
Officers

E. W. Altstaetter—President
 G. Norma Harberger—Vice President
 Nancy M. Burke—Secretary
 Ben Russell—Treasurer

Directors

Term expiring 2007

Nancy M. Burke
 Earl S. "Smittie" Cooler
 Natalie Hefter
 Ben Russell

Term expiring 2008

E. W. "Bill" Altstaetter
 Isobel Bitner
 Robert P. Smith
 Iva Roberts Welton

Term expiring 2009

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

Operating Divisions

Hilton Head Island History Division

Historic Preservation Projects
 History Research and Studies
 Fort Mitchel
 Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery
 Sites Identification and Marking

The Heritage Library

History & Family Heritage Library
 Books, Periodicals, Microfilm &
 CDs DSL Internet Connection

Heritage Library Press

Specialty Book Publishing
 Newsletter Productions
 Book Repair Assistance

Heritage Library Workshops

Genealogy Classes and Workshops
 History Lectures, Seminars and
 Conferences

Heritage Library News is a publication of The Heritage Library Press, a division of The Heritage Library Foundation, Inc., Hilton Head Is., SC 29928-4640

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.



President's Column

By Bill Altstaetter

It was July, in the Summer of '97 when a small, dedicated group of history buffs and genealogists gathered to form a library and supporting foundation. It started in one nine by twelve office, no windows, a handful of books and one computer.

Here we are in the Summer of '07, celebrating the 10th Anniversary of The Heritage Library. The Heritage Library Foundation during this ten year period has grown to encompass not only a highly regarded research library with a national reputation for excellence in the fields of history and family heritage, but also a publication arm specializing in helping individual authors produce limited editions of their work and an educational unit providing quality instruction for both budding and accomplished family historians.

With the coming together of The Hilton Head Island Historical Society and our Foundation in 2005, we took a giant step forward into the world of historic preservation and the study of local, national, and international history. With special classes and lectures designed to illuminate the events and peoples of our history our Community Outreach Program strives to bring history alive to residents and visitors of the Low-country, school age and beyond.

Repair and renovation projects are underway at both of the Foundation's historic sites: Zion Chapel of

Campaign Update

(Continued from page 1)

we now have 56% of our 2007 goal of \$50,000.

That's the Good News. The Bad News is, so far only 15% of the membership have responded.

The silent majority, 85% of our members are yet to be heard from. Should the remaining 300 plus members each send in a fully deductible gift of \$100, we would easily exceed our goal!

Whether or not you are able to donate 100, 200 or only 50 dollars, your financial support will be equally welcome. Remember, the regular annual dues provide only about 20% of our budget. Services we provide bring in another 20%. The remaining 60% of the budget must be raised separately. To protect your past investment in the Library and to insure a strong future, your financial support is NEEDED NOW.

To put us "over the top," put your check in the mail today. Help make this the first 100% plus campaign in our ten year history.

It would be a great way to start the Anniversary Celebration.

Ease Cemetery at the mid-island intersection of William Hilton Parkway, Folly Field Road, and Mathews Drive and Historic Fort Mitchel, located behind the closely guarded gates of Hilton Head Plantation (see separate story in this issue).

Under the direction of John Griffin, our very accomplished Director of Re-

(Continued on page 4)



Goings on

Announcing—

Genealogy Classes for the 2007 Fall Session and the 2008 Winter Session

Heritage Library Workshops genealogy presentations include individual lectures, multiple session workshops, seminars, and conferences.

Standard registration fees for individual lectures are \$15 or \$20, multi-session workshops range from \$35 to \$60. Special seminar and conference pricing will vary according to subject matter, speakers, and facilities requirements. Heritage Library Foundation members receive a membership discount, as shown within brackets [\$0.00], following the listed session price.

Unless otherwise noted all events are held at The Heritage Library in The Robert and Cora Peoples Heritage Room.

BEGINNING GENEALOGY—(No experience necessary)

Introducing the Heritage Library—FREE OF CHARGE—No reservations needed.

Library staff members will guide short tours of the library and answer questions about the history and genealogy programs and services available at The Heritage Library.

FALL SESSION

Monday, September 17, 2007—10:00 to 11:00 AM

Monday, October 22, 2007—10 to 11:00 AM

Monday, November 12, 2007—10:00 to 11:00 AM

WINTER SESSION

Monday, January 14, 2008—10:00 to 11:00 AM

Monday, February 11, 2008—10:00 to 11:00 AM

Monday, March 10, 2008—10:00 to 11:00 AM

Monday, April 14, 2008—10:00 to 11:00 AM

Starting Family Research— Fee \$45.00 [\$40.00] for the series. Fee includes textbook, class notes, and use of the library for the class.

Instructor: Nancy Burke, Deputy Director, The Heritage Library

Entry level lecture series on getting started with family history research. This three session class introduces the first time researcher to the fascinating field of genealogy, its unique nomenclature and suggests basic research techniques.

FALL SESSION

Tuesday, October 16, 2007—2:00 to 3:30 PM

Tuesday, October 23, 2007—2:00 to 3:30 PM

Tuesday, October 30, 2007—2:00 to 3:30 PM

WINTER SESSION

Tuesday, January 22, 2008—2:00 to 3:30 PM

Tuesday, January 29, 2008—2:00 to 3:30 PM

Tuesday, February 5, 2008—2:00 to 3:30 PM

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

Heritage Festival

(Continued from page 1)

The event was announced by President E. W. (“Bill”) Altstaetter at the recent Quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors, with the festival’s Executive Director, Mary Duvall, outlining the schedule of events and highlighting attractions, sponsors and participating organizations.

To commemorate The Heritage Library Foundation’s growth over the past ten years to more than 4,000 volumes, a staff of 35 volunteers, and state-of-the-art worldwide research capabilities; the festival events are designed to increase public awareness of family history, historical research & preservation, educational programs and Lowcountry history.

The 1st Annual Hilton Head Island HERITAGE FESTIVAL, Sunday, October 7th, will be held on the grounds of Historic Honey Horn. Gates will open at 11:30 am and be followed by Opening Ceremonies.

The family-oriented afternoon will feature an afternoon of entertaining Historic re-enactment groups, a wide variety of regional and ethnic food, music of all types; from gospel to jazz; and a wide variety of historical crafts along with exhibits. The Festival is designed to entertain & delight folks of all ages.

WESTIN Hilton Head Resort & Spa is the title sponsor and headquarters hotel for the Hilton Head Island Heritage Festival weekend:

Other events planned throughout the weekend include:

Friday, Oct. 5th, 6:30-8:30pm in the Westin “Ocean Front Pavilion,” - PATRON Party

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President's Column

(Continued from page 2)

search and supported by multi-year grants from The Heritage Classic Foundation, we are moving forward with the project to collect the pension and service records from the National Archives of Civil War soldiers who enlisted in regiments of the Union Army formed on Hilton Head Island between 1862 and 1865 who served so gallantly as members of the United States Colored Troops. Descendants of these brave men are living here today, on Hilton Head Island, throughout Beaufort County, across South Carolina and beyond. They will be the direct beneficiaries of the information about their ancestors which will be gleaned from these records. The enrichment of our shared heritage provided by addition of information will likewise benefit us all, now and in the future.

Partnering with The Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra and the Beaufort County School System we are currently engaged in planning a major writing competition keyed to the Symphony's 2007-2008 Season "The Dream of America" Watch for more information in the next issue of Heritage Library News and check our Web Site (www.heritagelib.org) as well for the latest info.

To celebrate the accomplishments of the last decade and help prepare us for the next ten years we are crafting the "1st Annual Hilton Head Island Heritage Festival."

Planned for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, October 5th, 6th, and 7th (see center fold for details) it will provide a fun filled weekend of history and heritage in song and story, art and craft for all ages.

I encourage all of our members and friends to mark your calendars NOW, reserving those dates to come to the Festival. And Bring Friends! You'll have a grand time and benefit

Heritage Festival

"Lowcountry Art & Jazz"; Hosted by Arts Council of Southern Beaufort County & Jazz Lovers of the Lowcountry, the evening will feature an art show and sale accompanied by the music of renowned jazz vocalist, Teri Rini Powers.

Heavy hors d'oeuvres & Champagne will be served.

Saturday Oct 6th, 1pm-3pm in the WESTIN "Gazebo Lounge", "TEA with AUTHORS & ACTORS"; sponsored by Island Writer's Network and the Vernasco family; will open with Harpsichordist Dorothy Freeman playing a rare Colonial-period harpsichord followed by renowned local and regional Authors

your Foundation greatly. Seating at some of the events is limited so I encourage you to use the forms provided and get your ticket orders in early to void disappointment.

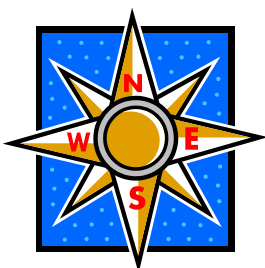
There is one more thing you can do.

- There are any number of tasks to be done in order to bring this First Heritage Festival home a winner.

- There are some 400 of you members "out there" and 36 of us on the current "volunteer staff."

When it comes to parties, events, galas and balls a whole lot of you have great skills and experience. Think how you might help a little bit. If a number of us each do something simple, no one will be worn out, and we'll have a sure fire hit!

WE can sure use your help!



sharing moments in time from their historical books. Period costumes and a surprise guest will highlight this informative and nostalgic afternoon tea.

Saturday, Oct. 6th, 7:30-10:30pm at the Westin, the HERITAGE BALL "As Time Goes By" will commemorate the Heritage Library Foundation's 10th Birthday with a black tie Dinner Dance.

"The One & Only TOMMY DORSEY ORCHESTRA" will present the greatest music of the "Big Band era" and before, conducted by Buddy Morrow, an original band member.

The Hilton Head Island HERITAGE FESTIVAL weekend has been designed to entertain, inform and delight all ages. This signature event, "Celebrating Our History & Heritage", marks the 10th anniversary of The Heritage Library Foundation and benefits its educational, preservation & community outreach programs.

See Center Fold and Ticket Order Form for details. For additional information: Contact the Heritage Library at (843) 686-6560 or visit the Festival Web Site at www.hhiheritagefestival.org



The Heritage Library has current openings for volunteers interested and willing to share their accumulated knowledge of heritage research with visitors and patrons of the Library. Give as little or as much time as you like. Just a few hours a month can make a difference.

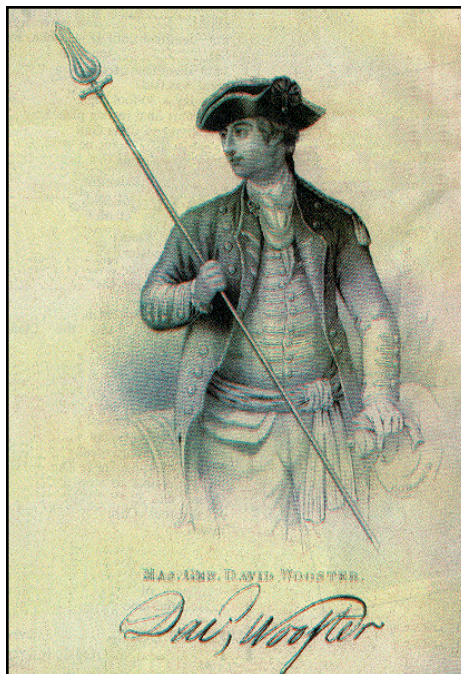
Feature Article — General David Wooster

By Lyman D. Wooster, Staff Feature Writer

In the 1950s upon reading Douglas Southall Freeman's multi-volume biography of George Washington my interest was especially attracted to those passages in which the name of General David Wooster appeared and often unfavorably so. In brief, the biographer gave the impression that General Washington thought very little of Wooster as a Revolutionary War general. I informed my father of this critical assessment and cautioned him about claiming, at least boastfully, any relationship to General David Wooster, a message he passed on to one of his sisters who was something of a genealogist. She resented my comments and pointed out that David Wooster was a collateral ancestor, an uncle X-generations removed; that he had been mortally wounded in the Battle of Ridgefield in 1777; and that he had married the daughter of the president of Yale College -- none of which dealt with his generalship. That family issue, such as it was, lay dormant for many years, until I became a volunteer at Hilton Head Island's Heritage Library, which provides ready access to a wealth of genealogical and historical material. There one day, I came upon information that suggested further research into the life of David Wooster might be profitable, not so much as a family matter -- the disputatious aunt having died years ago -- but as a footnote to colonial and Revolutionary War history.

My aunt, I discovered, had been correct on two points: David Wooster had married the daughter of the President of Yale and he had been mortally wounded. The judgment that he was an uncle is disputable; to have been an uncle our ancestor would have had to be a brother of David and that does not appear to have been the case. The two men were probably first cousins. More important was the discovery of some adverse comments regarding David Wooster's character. In the Dictionary of American Biography the following words and phrases were used to describe him: tactless, hearty rather than firm with his undisciplined troops, brutal toward the ci-

vilian population in Montreal, dull and uninspired, garrulous about his thirty years of service, and displaying "incapacities . . . with which Washington was in guarded agreement." On the other hand, Henry C. Deming in his lengthy oration at the dedication in 1854 of a monument to Wooster said he was "equal to any in courage, in patriotism, in generosity, in zeal for liberty, in that true magnanimity which can forget all personal slights and affronts in her great cause"; and "second only to Putnam in the length, variety, and hardship of his martial labors." All of which encouraged me to find out more about the man -- using the somewhat limited sources available here on Hilton Head Island. The information at hand is for the most part what others have said about him, not what could be called original material.



David Wooster and my direct ancestor were the grandsons of Edward Wooster, who has been described as the progenitor of American Woosters, or at least of our branch of the family tree. Edward was born in Buckinghamshire, England in 1622 and migrated to America in 1642, settling first in Milford, Connecticut, and moving to Derby in 1654 for the specific purpose of raising hops. He and his first wife had five children, and his second wife,

Tabitha Tomlinson, whom he married in 1669, also had five. Edward died in 1680. One of Edward's second group of five children was Abraham, a weaver by trade and said to be well-to-do. After Abraham's marriage to Mary Walker in 1699, they settled in Stratford where their children -- Ruth, Joseph, Sarah, Mary, Hannah, and David -- were born. A biography of David Wooster in the National Portrait Gallery of Distinguished Americans describes Abraham and Mary as "very respectable parents."

David Wooster's early years have been made obscure to biographers because family papers were destroyed by British troops in 1779 when they pillaged the Wooster home in New Haven. It has been frequently recorded, however, that he was born on March 2 either in 1710 or 1711 and that he graduated from Yale College in 1738.

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Feature Article— General David Wooster

(Continued from page 5)

The following year was the first of many years of public service. He was appointed a lieutenant and served in the Spanish War, also known as the War of Jenkins' Ear, that broke out in 1739. Jenkins was captain of a British ship and he claimed that Spanish coastguards had cut off his ear in 1731. He exhibited the detached ear in the House of Commons and the display so aroused public opinion that the government declared war in 1739, a war that fundamentally was one involving commercial rivalry between England and Spain and one that subsequently merged into the War of Austrian Succession. Wooster served first as a lieutenant on the sloop "Defense" then became captain of that ship; it patrolled the coast from Connecticut to Virginia without incident from 1741 to 1743. The war in the New World was confined largely to the southern-most American colonies and the Caribbean.

The late winter and the spring of 1745 was a key period in the life of David Wooster for on March 6 he was joined in matrimony to Mary Clap, daughter of the Rev. Thomas Clap, president of Yale College, and a month later he joined the Connecticut contingent that sailed northward to participate in the attack on Canada's Fort Louisbourg. It was also about this time that he purchased a home in New Haven on the street that now bears his name.

Mary Clap was 16 years of age when she and David Wooster were married and her qualities are described by Samuel Orcott in his History of the Old Town of Derby, Connecticut, 1642-1880: "The properties of this lady's understanding and of her heart were such as are rarely found in the same person. The powers of her mind were strong, active and firm. These were awakened, enlightened and enlarged by an early, uniform and well regulated education. Her understanding was enriched by a great variety of useful information. Her knowledge of New England, particularly Connecticut, was extensive and minute. She was conversant with all the historical and natural curiosities of this country. Her society was much sought, and her conversation much employed by persons of literature. The pleasure in noting these characteristics would be much less than it is were we obliged to stop here. What most distinguished, most adorned and most ennobled her was the gospel of the son of God. . . . She was charitable to the poor, sympathetic to the afflicted, and benevolent to all. . . . Her light seemed to be truly that of the just, which shineth more and more until the perfect day."

As for the siege of Louisbourg, the "Gibraltar of America" had become a source of severe annoyance to colonial fishing boats and their crews working the Grand Banks. Massachusetts' Governor Shirley rather easily persuaded the leaders of other New England colonies to join in taking action against this curse. The British also contributed naval forces to the expedition against Louisbourg, the one event in North America associated with King George's War, a European conflict between Britain and France. Wooster was appointed a captain in Colonel Burr's regiment, and "proved himself an active and spirited officer, and bore a distinguished part in the siege and capture of that strong fortress" North America's Gibraltar surrendered on June 19, 1745 -- only to be restored to France by the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1748.

Deming, in his 1854 oration, tells the following story of an incident involving Capt. Wooster during the siege: "A British captain ventured to apply his ratan [a stick or switch made of the tough stems of palms] quite freely to the shoulders of one of Captain Wooster's men, a respectable freeholder and church-member from Connecticut. Wooster remonstrated with the regular for so grossly abusing official superiority. The Briton resented this advice in unmeasured terms, and finally drew his sword to chastise the adviser upon the spot. Wooster successfully parried his thrusts and speedily disarmed him. Applying his own sword to his adversary's breast, he told him that the life he had just forfeited could only be redeemed by asking pardon and promising that he would never again disgrace with a blow, any soldier in the service.. The terms were accepted without a parley. The jeers of his companions soon drove the officer from the army, while Wooster won the title of the soldier's protector and friend."

Wooster's record in the Louisbourg adventure -- details regarding his record have not been recorded by his biographers -- prompted his superiors to select him to take command of a cartel ship (one carrying prisoners of war for exchange) and sail to England. He would have gone to France as well but the French would not grant permission to land. In England, Wooster immediately became popular with the people for his well-publicized military exploits, and he was presented at court. There, the king (George II) made him a member of the regular military service and presented him with a captaincy in Sir William Pepperel's regiment with half pay for life.

Back in Connecticut, he returned to private life in New Haven and to his wife; a son (Thomas) was born in 1752 and a daughter (Mary) in 1755. One source notes

(Continued on page 11)

Special Festival Section
**Four pages filled with information concerning the events planned for the
 First Annual Hilton Head Island Heritage Festival**

Event Schedule

Friday—Patron Party Saturday—Gala Dinner Dance Sunday—Heritage Festival

**Fourth Event added to Schedule
 Saturday—Afternoon Tea**

Tea with Authors & Actors

Saturday, 1-3 PM
 The Gazebo Lounge of the Westin



Robert E. Eberly, Jr. (shown above) signing copies of his recent book honoring the exploits of the men of the 8th Regiment of the Pennsylvania Reserves, *Bouquets from the Cannon's Mouth*.

Mr. Eberly, together with his wife Katherine, also a noted author of historical works, will share moments from times past shedding new light on the triumphs and tragedies of our ancestors.

The Eberlys will be joined by Dorothy Freeman playing songs from our heritage on her antique harpsichord.

Following the program the Westin will be serving an Afternoon Tea in the Gazebo Lounge off the Main Lobby. Many Islanders will remember with nostalgia the times past when afternoon tea at the Westin was a regular island ritual.




The Festival is privileged to add this program to the schedule through the courtesy of The Island Writers' Network and The Vernasco Family who are hosting the event.

Tickets are \$25 per person and may be purchased at the door or in advance by contacting the Festival Coordinator at The Heritage Library, 843-686-6560.




Hilton Head Island
 Heritage Festival
 10th Anniversary Celebration
 A Benefit for the Heritage Library Foundation

October 5th, 6th, 7th 2007


Friday October 5th




PATRON PARTY
 "Lowcountry Art & Jazz"
 6:30-8:30 pm

Hosted by: Arts & Cultural Council of Southern Beaufort County
 & The Heritage Library Foundation, Inc
 Westin Ocean Front Pavilion
 Heavy hors d'oeuvres & Champagne
 \$50.00 per person

Featuring Teri Rini Powers



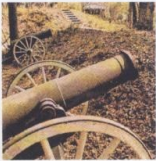
Saturday, October 6th



HERITAGE BALL
 "As Time Goes By"
 7:30 - 10:30 pm
 Dinner Dance
 Westin Grand Ballroom

~ The One & Only
TOMMY DORSEY ORCHESTRA ~
 Conducted by Buddy Morrow (original member)
 \$125.00 per person (group seating available)
 Black tie or Period costume


Sunday, October 7th



HERITAGE FESTIVAL

"Celebrating Our History & Heritage at Historic Honey Horn"
 11:30 - 5:00 pm
 Color Guard & Dignitaries, Historic Re-Enactments
 Crafts: Blacksmithing, Glass Making, Soap making, Weaving, and more
 Food: BBQ, National & Ethnic Cuisines, Seafood, Southern & Soul
 Music: Patriotic, Gospel, Jazz, Bands, Chorus
 Children's Activities,

\$7.00 adults, under 12 Free; Parking \$3.00



Contact: (843)686-6560

HERITAGE LIBRARY
 Foundation

www.heritagelib.org

For more on *Bouquets from the Cannon's Mouth: Soldiering with the Eighth Regiment of the Pennsylvania Reserves* see article on page 13.



To Members and Friends of The Heritage Library ~

~An Invitation to Join in the Celebration of History and Heritage ~

The Heritage Library is ten years old this year!

To recognize the accomplishments of the past decade and celebrate our 10th Anniversary we will hold a Gala Festival Weekend Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, October 5, 6, and 7, 2007. Proceeds from the weekend's events will benefit the on-going operations and programs of The Heritage Library Foundation, Inc.

We cordially extend to you, your family, friends, and business associates a personal invitation to join us in this grand celebration of the history and heritage of the Lowcountry.

The weekend will be filled with great entertainment, music, art, educational opportunities, fun, dancing, historic reenactments, crafts, lots and lots of good food and fellowship.

The event kicks off Friday evening – 6:30-8:30PM with a “Patrons’ Party,” titled *Lowcountry Art & Jazz* at the Ocean Front Pavilion of The Westin Hilton Head Island Resort & Spa. Hosted by the Arts & Cultural Council of Southern Beaufort County and Jazz Lovers of the Lowcountry it will feature the harmonies of Teri Rini Powers. Original work of a number of Lowcountry artists will be on exhibition and for sale at the party and throughout the weekend at the Westin. Heavy Hors d’oeuvres & Champagne – Admission is \$50 per person. Attire is “Country Club casual.”

Saturday Afternoon – 1-3PM *Tea with Authors & Actors* will move the action to the Westin’s Gazebo Lounge for a traditional “Afternoon Tea” hosted by The Island Writers’ Network and the Vernasco Family. Admission is \$25 per person. The program will feature Dorothy Freeman at the Harpsichord and talks by authors Robert and Katherine Eberly sharing moments from their works on the American Civil War and the American Merchant Marine of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Saturday Evening – 7:30-10:30PM in the Grand Ballroom of the Westin Hilton Head, The Heritage Library Foundation will celebrate its 10th Anniversary with a Black Tie Dinner Dance – *As Time Goes By* featuring The One and Only Tommy Dorsey orchestra with Buddy Morrow conducting. Step back in time to the era of “the Big Bands” and famous nightclubs. For the adventurous period costumes are encouraged. Come dressed as a favorite family ancestor or notable from the pages of history. Admission is \$125 per person. Group seating is available.

Sunday from 11:30AM to 5PM the 1st Annual Hilton Head Island Heritage Festival, *Celebrating Our History and Heritage at Historic Honey Horn*, will take place. Children’s activities, Historic re-Enactments, Crafts, Food and Music will highlight the afternoon’s festivities. Tickets are \$7 each. Persons under 12 are Free. Parking is \$3.00 per car.

See the following pages for ticketing information or visit the Festival Web Site www.hhiheritagefestival.org. Information is also available by calling The Heritage Library at 843-686-6560.

The Festival is expected to draw visitors to the Lowcountry from throughout the three state region of Georgia, North and South Carolina, and beyond. *Events are expected to sell out. To avoid disappointment place your orders early using the ticket order form included in this issue of The Heritage Library News.*

Sincerely,

Bill

E. W. Altstaetter
President

The Heritage Library Foundation is a chartered South Carolina charitable corporation and holds 501 (c) (3) status from the Internal Revenue Service.

Westin "Festival" Package Room Rates

Westin Hilton Head Island Resort & Spa is offering
Special Hilton Head Island HERITAGE Festival Room Rates

October 5, 6 and 7

Shuttle Service to the Festival on Sunday, Oct. 7th

For Reservations & Information:

Contact: www.westin.com/hiltonhead

Code: "Festival"

1-866-716-8108

The Heritage Festival

10th Anniversary Celebration

A Benefit for the Heritage Library Foundation

October 5th, 6th, 7th 2007

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION & PATRON PACKAGES

Benefactors:	\$1,000 per couple	Patron Party, VIP Dinner Dance seating, listing on invitations and in program; limited edition signed and numbered poster by artist Kate Vassallo Festival tickets & parking
Ball Patrons:	\$500 per couple	Patron Party, VIP Dinner Dance seating, listing in program; 1st Edition poster by artist Kate Vassallo Festival tickets & parking
Festival Package	\$200 per person	Patron Party, regular Dinner Dance seating Festival ticket & parking

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS

10th Anniversary Gala Black Tie Dinner Dance	<i>"As Time Goes By"</i>	\$125 per person
Patron Party	<i>"Lowcountry Art & Jazz"</i>	\$50 per person
Afternoon Tea	<i>"Tea with Artists & Actors"</i>	\$25 per person
1st Annual HHI Heritage Festival	<i>"Celebrating Our History & Heritage at Historic Honey Horn"</i>	\$7 each Person under age 12 Free Parking \$3.00 per car

Complete and return the accompanying TICKET ORDER FORM together with your check made payable to The Heritage Library Foundation, Inc. to: *Festival Coordinator, The Heritage Library Foundation, Inc. 32 Office Park Road, Suite 300, Hilton Head Island, SC 29928-4640*

The events are expected to "sell out" so don't wait too long and be disappointed.

Hosts and Presenting Sponsor Organizations

THE WESTIN

Official Festival Headquarters Hotel

HILTON HEAD ISLAND

RESORT & SPA



HERITAGE LIBRARY

Foundation

The Vernasco Family

Island Writers' Network

Feature Article— General David Wooster

(Continued from page 6)

that there were four children born to the Woosters; evidently two children died in infancy. Upon his return from England, Wooster procured from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Massachusetts a charter under which Hiram Lodge was founded, the first lodge of Free Masonry in Connecticut -- and incidentally a lodge which Benedict Arnold joined in 1763. Wooster was a devout Christian and as such he occasionally officiated as a chaplain to his troops.

Wooster's civilian status and his role as a merchant were short lived. Efforts in 1750 by British and French representatives to settle territorial disputes in North America failed and a few years later the French and Indian War began. Fighting in the early 1750s occurred in western Pennsylvania, in New York state, and in Canada, but war was not declared until 1756. Wooster immediately became much involved; he was appointed a colonel and commanded a regiment raised in Connecticut, and subsequently took over a brigade and thus became a brigadier general.

Deming's account of a 1757 battle (probably in the vicinity of Ticonderoga or Crown Point) in which Col. Wooster participated is worth quoting: "Abercrombie, whom they afterward described as 'one a child could outwit and a popgun terrify' was the imbecile dispatched by the ministry to conduct this campaign. Reckless of everything but his own personal safety, without waiting for his artillery, he pushed forward the flower of his troops, over brushwork, stumps of trees, and all sorts of rubbish, to storm a breastwork of logs, bristling with swivels, and flanked by cannon, behind which Montcalm, the bravest of the brave, lay, with thirty-six hundred French and Canadians. The result can be readily foreseen; swivels and small arms mowed down officers and men. Courage and intrepidity only rendered the carnage more terrible. Wooster led his regiment into the thickest of the storm. They stood up to the butchery with unflinching pluck, and his own escape was one of the miracles of the battlefield. After this prodigal sacrifice of life to his incompetency, Abercrombie emerged from a saw-mill, two miles from the field, where he had been safely ensconced during the action, and in the extremest fright and consternation, hurried his troops back to the foot of Lake George." Deming notes that before the next campaign opened, fortunately for the English dominion in Ameri-

ca, and for the great interests of human freedom, the ministry had placed at the helm a man born to command: General Amherst.

In May 1759, Col. Wooster and his regiment of Connecticut men joined an army under General Amherst that forced the French to evacuate Ticonderoga and Crown Point and finally, along with Wolfe's conquest of Quebec, brought Canada under British control. This was a summertime (1759) campaign that required Col. Wooster and his regiment to undertake "one of the longest and most laborious marches recorded in our military annals," so said Deming in his oration. Wooster's unit and others made their way through upper New York state, at that time largely unsettled, and then across Lake Ontario to Montreal where Amherst's forces surrounded the unfortified city. It surrendered in September. Meanwhile, Quebec had fallen to the British, so that with Montreal's capitulation the Paris Peace Treaty of 1763 confirmed Britain's possession of Canada.

The peace also permitted David Wooster to enjoy civilian life for the next 12 years. He returned to his home in New Haven, engaged in a profitable mercantile business, drew a salary as His Majesty's collector of the customs of the Port of New Haven, and received half-pay as a captain in His Majesty's service. In short, he was quite well off financially and possessed the numerous comforts that wealth could provide. He had the pleasures of a charming and much admired wife, of the company of an adoring daughter and of a son, and of visits from friends, many of whom he had acquired through his years of military service.

The dozen years of domestic tranquility and financial prosperity came to an end with the action in the spring of 1775 at Lexington and Concord. Wooster rejected an offer to serve as a high ranking officer in the British Army; instead, he resigned his captaincy with its pay and offered his military services and his personal wealth to the State of Connecticut and to the Continental Congress.

The Connecticut General Assembly prepared for war by arming and equipping six regiments and appointing David Wooster major general and commander-in-chief, and naming Joseph Spencer and Israel Putnam brigadiers. In a letter dated June 23, 1775, Robert Sherman, a Connecticut representative in the Continental Congress sitting in Philadelphia, informed Wooster of general officer appointments in the Continental service. He noted that George Washington was commander-in-chief and that Ward, Lee, Schuyler, and Putnam were major generals and that Pomeroy, Mont-

(Continued on page 12)

Feature Article—

(Continued from page 11)

gomery, Wooster, Heath, Spencer, Thomas, Sullivan (N. H.) and Green (Rhode Island) were -- in that order -- given the rank of brigadier. Spencer added: "I am sensible that, according to your former rank you were entitled to the place of a major general; and as one was to be appointed in Connecticut, I heartily recommended you to the Congress. . . . But, as General Putnam's fame was spread abroad, and especially his successful enterprise at Noddle's Island, the account of which had just arrived, it gave him a preference in the opinion of the delegates in general, so that his appointment was unanimous among the colonies."

Wooster was not pleased to have a former subordinate (Putnam) and a junior officer (Schuyler) appointed to major generalships, and to receive only a brigadier-ship for himself. He replied to Sherman, according to Deming, as follows: "No man feels more sensibly for his distressed country, nor would more readily exert his utmost effort for its defense than myself. My life has been ever devoted to her service, from my youth up, though never before in a cause like this, a cause for which I would most cheerily risk, nay, lay down my life. Thirty years I have served as a soldier; my character was never impeached, nor called in question before. The Congress have seen fit, for what reason I know not, to point me out as the only officer among all that have been commissioned in the different colonies, who is unfit for the post assigned him. The subject is a very delicate one." He briefly considered rejecting his appointment, but Wooster accepted his commission, and upon receiving a letter, dated June 17, 1775, directing him and his Connecticut troops to go to New York, he began moving his troops as directed.

One of the criticisms of Wooster noted earlier was that he was "garrulous about his thirty years of service." If his responding letter is an example of being excessively talkative about trivial matters then it would seem it is the criticism that was excessive rather than David Wooster's reaction to being passed over. At age 65 in 1775, he was 20 years older than George Washington and most of the men who had been designated major general, a factor that might well have influenced Congress in its assignments. Wooster himself would have considered age irrelevant; and he did not refer to the matter of age as a reason for being passed over. He simply noted that Congress evidently considered him not fit to be a major general. Also unmentioned by

Wooster -- but referred to by John Adams -- is the provincial politics that prevailed in Congress, an anti-New England view held by the representatives of mid-Atlantic and southern colonies. Wooster and his Connecticut troops reciprocated; they mistrusted the New Yorkers and, as we shall see, disliked the assignment of protecting New York from English intrusions.

The month before, in May of 1775, Wooster and a few others in the Connecticut General Assembly planned an expedition to seize Ticonderoga from the British. He and they privately obtained a loan of \$1800 from the state treasury to finance the campaign for which they became financially responsible. On May 10, the fort was surprised and conquered by Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold and their troops. Samuel Orcutt comments that "This step, one of the boldest taken at that period of the contest, was at the sole risk and responsibility of Gen. Wooster and other individuals."

The Connecticut unit's stay in New York was brief and apparently of little consequence for most accounts of the period -- the summer of 1775 -- in the life of David Wooster are brief if noted at all. A collection of the public letters written by David Wooster between April 1775 and 1777 (the year of his death) reveal his various locations on Long Island and his military role there. He was in Harlem on July 22 and making arrangements to move his unit to Albany. On August 9 he wrote from Oyster Pond, noting that the English "had taken cattle, sheep, etc. from Fisher's Island." Five days later he reported from Oyster Pond that he had taken cattle and sheep from Plumb Island, and he concluded by reporting that "tomorrow I shall go to Gardiner's Island." In late August Wooster wrote to General Washington, the subject of the letter having to do with the disposition of his troops; General Schuyler had ordered Wooster's unit to join their regiment at Ticonderoga in preparation for an assault on Canada, while local inhabitants (New Yorkers) wanted Wooster's troops to remain and protect them.

The collection of letters written by Washington, Schuyler, and Wooster make clear a growing contentiousness involving the latter two men. Transferring troops to Schuyler's command was probably preferable to the Connecticut militiamen than to be serving under New York politicians: at one point Wooster declared he had no faith in the New Yorkers' honesty in the cause and he suspected trickery. Such comments no doubt fueled the dispute between the two men, Schuyler being a New Yorker from the Albany area.

~ To be continued ~

Genealogy Classes—Fall and Winter Schedule—continued

(Continued from page 3)

INTERMEDIATE GENEALOGY—(Attendance at one or more basic classes or a minimum of 3 months researching desirable)

Genealogy on Line—Lecture—Fee \$20.00 [\$17.00] for each individual session.

Instructor: Robert Smith, Senior Librarian & Internet Research Specialist, The Heritage Library
An overview of genealogical research sites available through the Worldwide Web. Participants should understand the basics of using search engines and web browsers as well as a general familiarity with techniques for family history research.

FALL SESSION

Wednesday, October 24, 2007—2:00 to 3:30 PM

WINTER SESSION

Wednesday, February 13, 2008—2:00 to 3:30 PM

Computerized Recordkeeping —Lecture—Fee \$20.00 [\$17.00] for each individual session.

Instructor: Bill Altstaetter, Senior Librarian and Workshops Director, The Heritage Library
Discussion will cover benefits and problems related to using the computer to record, store, and retrieve genealogical data obtained from personal research.

FALL SESSION

Tuesday—November 13, 2007—2:00 to 3:30 PM

WINTER SESSION

Tuesday—February 19, 2008—2:00 to 3:30 PM

ADVANCED GENEALOGY (continued)—(To get the most from these sessions completion of a basic genealogy class or more than one year of research experience is recommended)

Searching US Federal Census Records On-Line—Lecture—Fee \$25.00 [\$20.00] for each individual session.

Instructor: To be announced

The lecture will cover recommended techniques for finding and using US Federal Census data available through the Internet with particular emphasis on the resources of Ancestry.com, Genealogy.com and HeritageQuest.com.

FALL SESSION—Date & Time to be announced

WINTER SESSION—Dates & Time to be announced

Note as of this printing the General History Lectures and several other programs are pending completion. Watch the Library's Web site and future issues of the newsletter for further information

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## **Book Comments -**

### ***Bouquets from the Cannon's Mouth***

*By Robert E. Eberly, Jr.*

Editors Note—A quick search of the Internet produced this from Mr. Eberly—

On a beautiful spring day in 1994, Eberly searched a national cemetery near Salisbury, North Carolina, where he came across the graves of soldiers from the American Revolution to the Vietnam War.

“In the middle of this cemetery was a large meadow which I thought was quite curious. I was walking in it and looking for headstones that would say Thomas W. Springer. I then saw a series of markers, and I walked to them, and it became apparent that this meadow covered 18 mass graves in which were buried the remains of some 4,000 union prisoners who died between 1864 and 1865 in the Salisbury prison. I simply made a promise that I would tell Thomas Springer's story.”

Thirteen years later, Eberly delivered on his promise. Eberly allows soldiers and family members to tell much of the stories themselves through diary entries, newspaper clippings and personal letters to and from home.

“Wherever possible in constructing the book, I have used the words that the participants themselves used,” said Eberly. “I used anything that

*(Continued on page 15)*

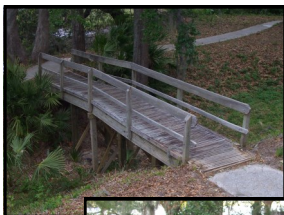
*The Heritage Library is home to The Hilton Head Island Genealogical Society which meets on the second Tuesday of each month from September through May of each year at 9:30 am. and to The Island Writers' Network which meets on the first Monday of each month except for July and August at 7 pm.*

A very special *THANK YOU* from all of us at The Heritage Library Foundation to—

***The Lowcountry Civil War Roundtable***

for the great work done by a select team of LCWRT members during the recently completed renovations at Fort Mitchel.

*Sincerely, The Officers & Directors of The Heritage Library Foundation*



*Before*



*After*

Left to right—Bill Trapp, ???, Paul Ricker, and ???  
(Editor's Note—Our apologies the two stalwarts whose names are missing.)



*Outstanding job Gang!*

*Congratulations and Thanks!*

*Now, on a somewhat sadder note—*



YOU won't see this—  
***Anymore***



***No more Red Trolley Tours to Fort Mitchel!***

*To our friends in Hilton Head Plantation—*

*You won't see this anymore!*

*And thousands of Island Visitors won't see the Fort!*

In an action reversing more than thirty years of history begun by Charles Fraser, the HHPPOA Board, alleging they must stop "wandering busses" from marring the solitude of their sanctuary, bars upwards of **7,000 island visitors a year** from the fort grounds.

*This was a sad day for the preservation of our history here on Hilton Head Island!*



THEY won't see this—  
***Anymore***





# About Our Members and Volunteers

*from the Membership Desk*  
By Gwen Altstaetter

We have had a quiet summer with many of our volunteers taking some well deserved time off. We want you to relax and come back all rejuvenated in the Fall.

We have two people who are planning to volunteer this fall and we look forward to adding them to the active roster. Give us a call if you are interested since we will be running a short training course in the Fall.

One of our current volunteers, Blanche Nelson, who is our "smiling face" on Friday mornings has taken on a new task. She is using her creative talents to make a new display every six weeks or so in our lighted display cabinet in the Reading room. Next time you are in the Library take a minute or two to see what her latest creation is. This month her theme is "Plantations of the Lowcountry". Many thanks, Blanche. We also want to thank Nancy Burke who was doing that in addition to her many other responsibilities in the past but has happily passed the baton to Blanche.

Our new member list is a bit shorter this time but the welcome to you is heartfelt. Welcome to Jane and Fred Haeflinger from North Carolina, Barbara Bailey from New York, Cindy Duvall from Louisiana and Barbara White from Bluffton. We hope you are enjoying your membership and are having much success in your researching. Once again I want to thank all the members who are continuing to renew their memberships because, as I have said, we do depend on your

## Many thanks....

To several of you who have stepped up to the plate by donating money for special projects such as the Newsletter, mailings for the Birdies for Charity and cartridges for our printers and copiers. Although these gifts are not directly aimed at our general operating expenses they do free up some of the money designated for these projects (which serve to keep our name in the public eye) can be used for general operating expense.

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Attention movie buffs! The Library will present a series of "oldies but goodies" the last Wednesday of August, September, October and November. In July the series *kicked off* with "Top Hat" starring Fred Astair and Ginger Rogers. Those were the days when people burst into song and dance whenever the mood hit! The production dance numbers were really fun to watch. Dori Dixon will be sharing her large collection of these great hits with us. We'll furnish the popcorn, you bring your favorite liquid refreshment. Call 686-6560 a week in advance to see what's playing and let us know you will be there. Start time is 1:00 p.m. The afternoon is free but donations are appreciated. *See you at the movies!*

continued support.

Please remember to spread the word about what we have to offer at the library. We are continually finding people who have never heard about us and are amazed with the material we have to offer them in their family research.

Hope to see you all at one or more of the 10th Anniversary events in October. In the meantime Happy Researching!

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## Bouquets

*(Continued from page 13)*

was a primary source that would give some indication from the soldiers themselves of what life was like during the Civil War."

He hopes Bouquets from the Cannon's Mouth: Soldiering with the Eighth Regiment of the Pennsylvania Reserves will be useful to both professional historians and the casual reader. "I hope readers will gain an appreciation for the sacrifice our ancestors went through which has given us, truly, the country we have today. If it weren't for those thousands of boys – many of them really were boys between 14 and 16 years old – who enlisted and went off to war, we would have a very different country today."

Eberly laments, "History really doesn't seem to be taught anymore in the secondary schools." Eberly writes with the hope that readers will gain an appreciation for the past and for their own family history. "I'm a great fan of folks doing research on genealogy and family history. That's what led me to do this book," he said. "The discovery of the diary and letter my great, great grandfather wrote, would have been unlikely if it weren't for the fact that I was interested in researching my family. One thing I would encourage everyone to do is talk with their grandparents and great grandparents while they are still alive and ask them to, 'tell me about your life.' You will find amazing things. People who aren't born yet will thank you."

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**The Heritage Library Foundation, Inc.
Serving Hilton Head Island and the Lowcountry
1997 — 2007**



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