

REDCLIFFE PLANTATION
181 REDCLIFFE RD
BEECH ISLAND, SC 29842
(803) 827-1473

UPCOMING EVENTS
AT REDCLIFFE

Hunger Takes No
Vacation Food Drive

Now - Nov 30

Donate at all 47 SC
State Parks

Growing History:
Hives & Honey

Sat, Sept 03 10AM

\$10 Adults

\$7 Ages 6-16

For more information on these
programs please contact the park.

Park Staff

Park Manager
Joy Raintree

Park Interpreter
Elizabeth Laney

Park Technician
Doug Kratz

Asst. Park Ranger
Theresa Hipps

A Note on Violet Guntharpe

Violet was interviewed by a WPA interviewer in 1937. She lived another 5 years passing away in 1941 at the age of 97. Her interview is one of the more well known narratives from SC.

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The World Turned Upside Down

"To me it seems as if I had been in two worlds, and two existences, the old and the new, and to those knowing only the latter, the old will appear almost like mythology and romance, so thorough has been the upheaval and obliteration of the methods and surroundings of the past." ~ E. Spann Hammond

RECONSTRUCTION.

Not just the rebuilding of the South but a time of adjustment where communities dealt with the social, economic and political changes wrought by the Civil War. It must have felt to many, upper class planters and newly emancipated freedmen alike, as if the world had turned upside down.

Three Views on Reconstruction:

E. Spann Hammond, a son of Redcliffe's James Henry Hammond, was thirty-one years old when the war ended. He had lived half his life in a position of wealth and privi-

lege but found himself struggling to make a living at his father's Cowden Plantation after the war. In a letter to a friend around 1900 Hammond wrote of the difference between his life before the war and after the war as "two worlds, and two existences, the old and the new...". The changes wrought by the Civil War and Reconstruction were so thorough that he referred to them as "the upheaval and obliteration of the methods and surroundings of the past."

Violet Guntharpe was just eleven when she was emancipated from the plantation where

she had been enslaved in Fairfield County, SC in 1865. Violet expressed the fear that many freed men and women experienced at their abrupt change in circumstances when she declared in 1937, "Honey us wasn't ready for the big change that come!"

Catherine F. Hammond, widow of James Henry Hammond, wrote in 1865 that she could "scarce restrain a burst of complaint at my change in circumstances—but as I compare my lot with many others, I see only cause for thankfulness."

"Honey, us wasn't ready for the big change that come! Us had no education, no land, no mule, no cow, not a pig, nor a chicken, to set up housekeeping. The birds had nests in the air, the foxes had holes in the ground, and the fishes had beds under the great falls, but us colored folks was left without any place to lay our heads." ~ Violet Guntharpe, Former Slave from Fairfield, SC



The EDUCATION of Miss Betty Hammond

Elizabeth "Betty" Hammond was the apple of her father's eye. The youngest of eight children born to Catherine and James Hammond of Redcliffe, Betty was a young woman who grew up surrounded by wealth, power, and privilege. The education deemed necessary for a young lady of the time gave Betty a broad variety of experiences and lessons through travel, home schooling, formal schooling and tutors. Her earliest lessons came from her mother. Later in life Betty recalled that her mother had taught her to read (con't pg 2)

The Education of Miss Betty Hammond, continued...

before she was five years old. Her education continued with a series of governesses and tutors whom Betty later reminisced about.

Sister and I had two governesses: Miss Rossiter and then Miss Atkinson. I also went to school to a Mrs. Clark in Beech Island. Also Mr. Kidd.

Throughout 1857, 1858 and 1859 the Hammonds were moving back and forth between their new home at Redcliffe Plantation and various rented dwellings in Washington, D.C. while Betty's father served his term as U.S. Senator. Betty had a number of tutors during that time but she remembered most the school she went to in 1859.

[We] rented what had been a club house in front of the White House and across the street from the park which has a statue of Andrew Jackson on horseback. Went to Mrs. Burr's School. Studied French and got the prize in French class. Miss Hinton was assistant teacher.

Betty also had the opportunity to go to school at The National Institute for a few months while in Washington, D.C. The National Institute was one of the predecessors of the Smithsonian Institute. While studying at the Institute Betty remembered taking trips to Baltimore and Annapolis.

and 65, to Miss Safford in Beech Is. And kept up French and music. Always had my horse... and rode every day.

The French lessons proved invaluable when in 1866 Betty along with her mother Catherine and sister Cattie visited Paris for a few months. Betty attended a private school run by Mademoiselle Montet. All of her lessons were in French - questions and answers! She also had more lessons in drawing and piano.

Although Betty probably studied many subjects the ones she writes about most—music, art, languages—certainly formed the cornerstone of education for many wealthy young women of the period.

MISS SEDGWICK,

Assisted by Miss MARIA SEDGWICK, will re-open her SCHOOL, MONDAY, Oct. 7th, at her residence on Broad street, over C. Catlin's Music store.

The Scholastic year will consist of three terms, of eleven weeks each.

Rates of Tuition, from \$9 to \$20, according to the requirements of the pupils.

The course of Instruction will comprise all the English branches essential to an accomplished education, together with French, Latin, German, Drawing, Vocal and Instrumental Music. Each taught by competent instructors.

Vocal Music will constitute a daily exercise of school, without extra charge.

A limited number of Young Ladies will be received into the family of the Principals, on reasonable terms. Applications for Board, addressed to the care of Dr. I. P. GARVIN, will receive attention.

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When the Civil War began in 1861 Betty remembered her life going on pretty much as it had prior to the war.

Terms of 63 and 64, went to the Misses Sedgewick's High School in Augusta. Had a French teacher. Term of 1864

Quotes are from "Notes" dictated by Elizabeth Hammond Eve to one of her daughters in the 1930s. The ad for the Misses Sedgewick's school is from the October 6, 1861 edition of the Augusta Chronicle.

Are the Dog Days Over?

During the reign of the dog star—that is during the time when the rising of Sirius nearly corresponds to the rising of the sun, we have been taught to look for blazing hot weather. We were under the impression that the heated term ended about the 11th of August. We have waited anxiously for the advent of the blissful period when the malignant influence ascribed by astrologers to this planetary contiguity, should cease. The 11th was hot—the 12th was hotter—the 13th was hotter still—and yesterday, but for the intervention of a friendly cloud in the afternoon, would have fully sustained the reputation of the balance of the week for caloric radicalism. We were losing faith in the dog-star, and had almost become settled in our mind that the Millerite, who predicted that it would continue to get hotter and hotter until creation went to eternal smash, was correct; but on referring to the almanac makers, we find that they differ—like doctors—and some of them make the helical (no profanity intended) rising of the dog star, from the 3d of July to the 11th of August, while others give it from July 24th to August 24th. The little "purp" started early enough this year to have quit on the 11th, but as it seems determined to suit all the almanac makers, by running until the 24th, we advise everybody to buy a salamander safe, and keep as cool as possible.

Revisiting the Dog Days of Summer

In our July 2016 issue of the *Redcliffe Southern Times* we presented the dog days of summer and although that issue was all about actual dogs we wanted to revisit the theme this month. While looking through some old issues of the *Augusta Chronicle* we found this amusing article about the origins of the "dog days of summer," weather conditions in August of 1866 and, strangely enough, references to doomsday and a peculiar kind of safe. Our favorite line? "The 11th was hot—the 12th was hotter—the 13th hotter still..." Sounds like August of any year to us!

Some 19th Century Tidbits:

Millerites were adherents of Adventist preacher William Miller who predicted the world would end on April 23, 1844.

Salamander Safes were named for salamanders, creatures who, mythically, were thought to be impervious to fire. Thus "salamander" safes were fire proof.

This caricature of a Millerite preparing for the world to end is part of the American cartoon series of the Library of Congress.

