

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

# Redcliffe Southern Times

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 10

APRIL 2015

UPCOMING  
EVENTS AT  
REDCLIFFE.

## Redcliffe's

Evolving Landscape

Sat, April 11  
at 10:00 a.m.

FREE & Family Friendly

Behind the Scenes

Sat, May 09  
at 5:15 p.m.

\$15/person

Reservations required.

For more information on these  
programs please contact the park.

## Park Staff

Park Manager  
Joy Raintree

Park Interpreter  
Elizabeth Laney

Park Technician  
Doug Kratz

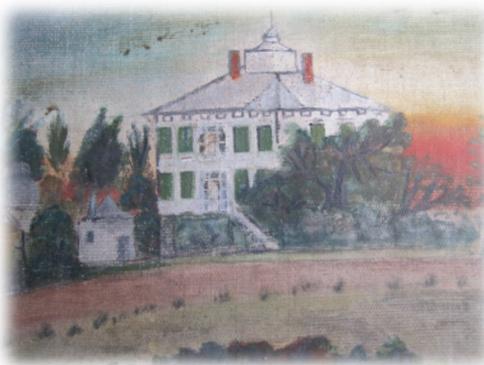
Assistant Ranger  
Theresa Hipps

## Interesting Fact

The Berckmann family operated Fruitland Nursery in Augusta, GA from 1858 to 1918. It was the first large scale horticultural nursery in the southeastern United States.

## “To harmonize every feature...”

Louis Berckmann and the design of Redcliffe's Original 1860's Landscape



In 1859, with his orchards, vineyards and even the construction of his new mansion almost complete, James Henry Hammond sent a design for a small formal garden to landscape designer Louis Berckmann who owned and managed Fruitlands Nursery (now the Augusta National Golf Course) in Augusta, GA for his comments. In a letter to the planter in April of 1859 Berckmann urged Hammond to consider a different approach for his “lordly” country residence. He urged Hammond to think of the landscape as a frame for the picture that was the mansion: “There is no reason, no motive whatever in your commanding position to con-

fine your frame to a narrow strip of ground... Let me express my idea in a few words: ‘your splendid house, is a Lordly residence, and requires... a parke,’ to harmonize every feature about and around it.”

Berckmann acknowledged that there might be some reasons why Hammond might be hesitant to embrace “the trouble of an extensive pleasure ground.” They included he said, “1<sup>st</sup> giving up of arable or farm ground to a certain extent, 2<sup>nd</sup> the planting of so much more ornamental trees, & 3<sup>rd</sup> the annoyance of keeping these grounds in proper condition...where constant care has to be taken.” Despite these considerations Berckmann continued to try and carry his point across:

“your pine woods, and the magnificent horizon you command, are better features than anything art can bring in; but even, considering the vastness and grandeur of those features, it must not be allowed to spread out under your feet a small, artificial spot out of all connection with the broad space around you.”

Berckmann must have convinced Hammond, for despite the orchards, vineyards and gardens that would have covered the landscape in the 1860's, it is Berckmann's extensive pleasure grounds with ornamental trees, harmonizing landscape and organic frame which continues to delight visitors today.

Your most thankful & humble  
servant, L. Berckmann



FREE Family Event

Redcliffe's Evolving  
Landscape

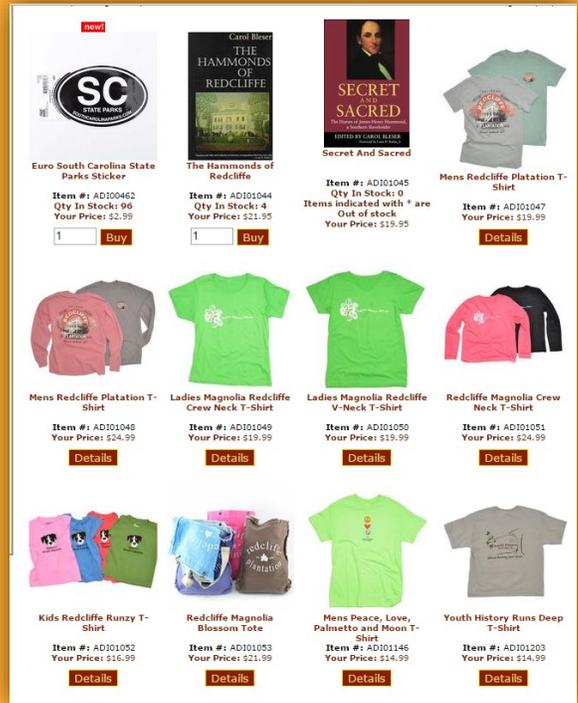
Saturday, April 11, 2015  
10:00 am - Noon

Come explore the historic  
landscape and learn more  
about how the plantation  
looked back in the 1860's.

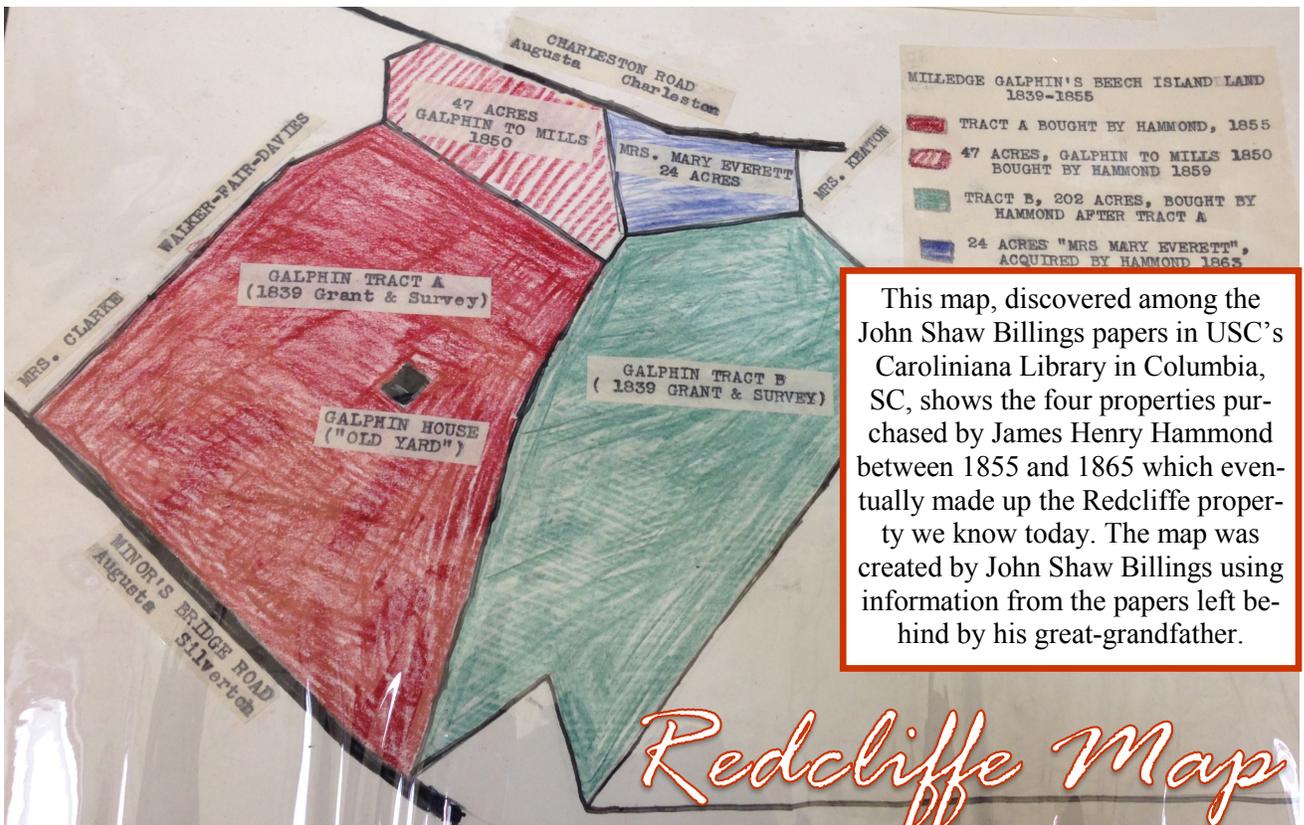
In partnership with The Humanities  
Council<sup>SC</sup> and Lushlife Nursery.

Check out all of the great Redcliffe merchandise you can buy at the SC State Parks online store!

Just click the picture to the right to see all the Redcliffe related items in the SC State Parks online store.



## Document of the Month



This map, discovered among the John Shaw Billings papers in USC's Caroliniana Library in Columbia, SC, shows the four properties purchased by James Henry Hammond between 1855 and 1865 which eventually made up the Redcliffe property we know today. The map was created by John Shaw Billings using information from the papers left behind by his great-grandfather.

*Redcliffe Map*