

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

UPCOMING EVENTS  
AT REDCLIFFE

Hunger Takes No  
Vacation Food Drive  
July 01 - Nov 30  
Donate at all 47 SC  
State Parks

Beyond the Gravestone  
Sat, Oct 17th 5 pm  
(All Ages)

\$7/Adults \$5/Kids  
Reservations  
required

For more information on  
these programs please con-  
tact the park.

## Park Staff

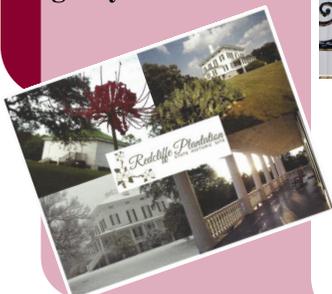
Park Manager  
Joy Raintree

Park Interpreter  
Elizabeth Laney

Park Technician  
Doug Kratz

Asst. Park Ranger  
Theresa Higgs

On your next visit,  
mention seeing our  
new postcard in the  
newsletter and we'll  
give you one FREE!



# Redcliffe Southern Times

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OCTOBER 2015

## The Fitzsimons' Charleston Home

James Henry Hammond secured his financial future and officially became a member of South Carolina's planter class in 1831 when he married Catherine Fitzsimons of Charleston. Catherine's father, Christopher Fitzsimons, was an Irish immigrant who became one of the wealthiest merchants in Charleston. Christopher Fitzsimons was a cotton factor, a slave trader, and the owner of ships, distilleries, warehouses, and plantations.

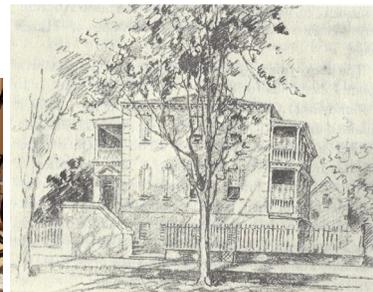
Catherine was 17 years old when she married James Henry Hammond. After her marriage, Catherine lived the remainder of her life mostly on the Hammond plantations. Yet, one might wonder, where had Catherine Fitzsimons Hammond spent her early years?



The Fitzsimons home in Charleston was located at 54 Hasell Street. The home, known today as the William Rhett House, is believed to be one of the oldest dwelling houses in Charleston and dates to circa 1712. The house was first built for Colonel William Rhett, a militia officer and sea captain most remembered for his capture of the infamous pirate, Stede Bonnet. In 1807, Christopher Fitzsimons purchased the home for **\$17,142.86**. The Fitzsimons family owned the house from 1807 to 1873.

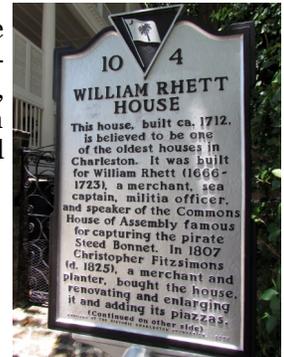
Today, the historic mansion at 54 Hasell Street remains a unique Charleston architectural treasure. And, it is for sale! The William Rhett House is currently listed for **\$6,400,000**. Interested? For additional pictures and information, including views of beautiful Rococo plasterwork, visit Carolina One Real Estate's website.

[http://www.carolinaonerealestate.com/property/property.asp?  
PRM\\_MLSNumber=15016790&PRM\\_MlsName=CTAR](http://www.carolinaonerealestate.com/property/property.asp?PRM_MLSNumber=15016790&PRM_MlsName=CTAR)



from *The Dwelling Houses of Charleston SC*  
by A. Huger Smith and D.E. Huger Smith, 1917

Don't forget: Your last opportunity to  
See one Cool Cemetery October 17th  
call 803-827-1473 now for reservations!



MISC  
1909  
5 Rose bushes from  
Mt Vernon to Redcliffe

...from Mt. Vernon to Redcliffe 1909

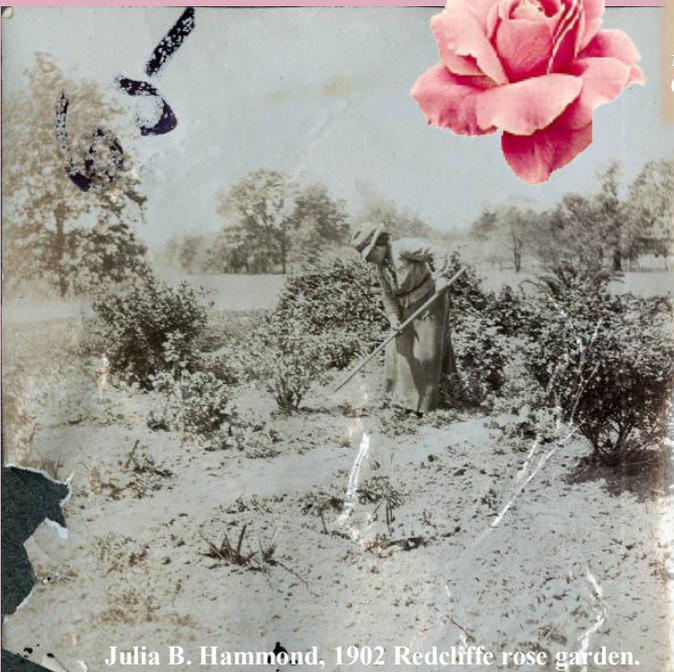
According the 1889 Visitor's Guide to Mount Vernon by Elizabeth B. Johnston, interested parties could purchase rose bushes, a variety known as "Mary Washington", from the gardens of Mt. Vernon. The guide stated that "large numbers...are yearly raised and readily sold." One only had to contact "the florist" Franklin A. Whelan who would assuredly and "promptly fill, by mail or express, all orders for flowers or plants from Mount Vernon."

From correspondence in the Hammond family papers, it appears that the family did just that.

In a 1909 letter to Mrs. Hammond (who we believe was actually Miss Julia Hammond), sent from Mount Vernon, Fairfax Co., Virginia, Franklin Whelan describes five roses of the Killarney variety to be mailed to Redcliffe. According to Whelan the roses were grown outdoors, not under glass, so that they are not uniform in appearance. As he closes the letter Mr. Whelan requests that Mrs. Hammond "Be good enough to let me know of safe arrival...Yours Truly, F.A. Whelan."

Although there are no existing rose bushes at Redcliffe today, there is photographic evidence of a rose garden on the front lawn of the mansion, maintained by no other than the Miss Julia Hammond. Mount Vernon's Killarney, a hybrid tea variety likely added to the garden in 1909, is described in the 1907 edition of *The Journal of Horticulture and Home Farmer* which praises its value as a "cut flower" and describes the bloom as "a bright pink colour."

Mt Vernon  
Fairfax Co Va  
Oct 28/09.  
Dear Miss Hammond.  
Mrs  
Under glass - but they are in the best  
better - I hope they will do a few  
well and for many years (Killarney)  
be interesting as memories all with  
of Mt Vernon and also just out-  
attract the kindly thought & fire by  
of Mrs Rathbone. we had  
Be good enough to let me know of safe arrival  
me hear of safe arrival as if kept  
Yours truly  
F. A. Whelan



Julia B. Hammond, 1902 Redcliffe rose garden.

from the John Shaw Billings Scrapbook  
Collection, Caroliniana Library, vol. 2 p114

**GARDENER'S REPORT.**

Mount Vernon, Fairfax Co., Va., May 15, 1903.

LADIES:—

I herewith submit report of greenhouse and garden for year ending April 30, 1903:

Total receipts . . . . .	\$1021.55
Expenditures for postage, etc., on orders . . . . .	16.80
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Cash to Superintendent . . . . .	\$1006.58

I have carried out instructions of Council as to Harrison roses at R. R. gate, and Lily of the Valley in flower garden, etc. I can say little in regard to my work the past year, as the result and appearances must speak for me.

Roses and carnations did fairly well during the winter; and, in fact, everything thrived, in my opinion.

I sincerely hope my efforts may meet with your appreciation and assure you those efforts will not relax or be abated, but I shall earnestly endeavor to make each and every year an improvement over the preceding one.

Very truly yours,  
FRANKLIN A. WHELAN.

(Signed)

**GARDENER'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT.**

Salary of gardener . . . . .	\$1800.00
Salary of Oswald Oners . . . . .	480.00
Salary of William Harrison . . . . .	560.00
Expended by gardener . . . . .	16.80
<hr/>	
	\$2656.80
Receipts . . . . .	\$1021.55
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Net cost . . . . .	\$1634.45

Gardener's Report to the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union on the status of the greenhouse and gardens, 1903.