

REDCLIFFE PLANTATION
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Redcliffe Southern Times

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UPCOMING EVENTS AT REDCLIFFE

Hunger Takes No
Vacation Food Drive

June 01 - Nov 30
Donate at all 47 SC
State Parks

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 Hipps

Did You Know?

While August usually had the highest number of births in the slave community, June was a close second.

A notable June birth was that of Peter, son of Wallace & Sibby, born June 1858 at Cowden Plantation. Peter's murder 18 yrs later was the catalyst for the **Ellenton Riots** in Sept 1875.

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

To say that Edward Spann Hammond found it hard living under the thumb of his father James Henry Hammond would be an understatement.

At sixteen he ran away and publicly accused his father of "harshness and unkindness."

At age twenty-two the love of his life broke their engagement after his father sabotaged the relationship.

At age twenty-four he ran for a seat in the SC Legislature, but although initially supportive, his father mostly complained about the son's absence.

Spann, as he was known to the family, was the middle of three sons of James Henry and Catherine Hammond. While he and both of his brother's felt the pressure of their father's expectations and the disappointment of his inability to express his love to them,

Spann was the one who most acted out, resented and later regretted his relationship with his father. At one point all he wanted was for his father to "place a little confidence in me."

Despite their many understandings it was Spann who stood beside his father's bedside when James Henry Hammond passed away on November 13, 1864. On the anniversary of his father's death two years later he wrote his mother: "Today too was a beautiful autumn day... and as each moment rolled on I lived over that day, so freshly every successive incident recalled to me. At the moment I now write, I crept gently to his couch & pressed my last kiss on his forehead."

As so often happens, Spann seemed to come closer to his father after Hammond's death. The boy who had publicly called his father harsh and unkind now suggested to his mother that "some steps should

be taken toward establishing Father's reputation before the world." The guardian of his father's diary later in life, Spann ripped from its pages the entries describing the falling out the two had had when he was sixteen years old.

Of all of Hammond's children, it was Spann Hammond who seemed to most inherit his father's ability to observe the world around him and record it in a detailed form.

The papers of Edward Spann Hammond are almost as extensive as that of his father with diaries, letters, receipts and other collected and written memorabilia. While his father's papers provided an incredible account of the antebellum world, Spann's papers detail the political and social upheaval of Reconstruction and the advent of the 20th century.



IMAGES OF FATHERHOOD

Its hard to distinguish between the two men in these images—both proud fathers with similar features, enjoying a moment with their children.

The images, however, were taken almost two decades apart and show John Sedgwick Billings (right) with his two sons John and Henry circa 1908, and then John Shaw Billings (left) with his only child Frederica "Skeeter" circa 1927.



20 June Sunday. - I am forty-one years old to-day.

Sunday, June 20th, 1875 I am forty-one years old to-day. Some how I am very sad & depressed. There is much of my past, & my prospects, for which I should feel very thankful to Providence. I dwell on nothing very ardently or earnestly—either of hopes of fear, joys or cars. Yet I am not apathetic, but depressed & sad. Is it a harbinger?

Writing in his private journal on his 41st birthday, **E. Spann Hammond** appeared to be quite maudlin. Of course in 1875 he was estranged from his first wife Marcella and was desperately trying to establish a stable and productive life for himself in the midst of a very turbulent social, political and economic era.

More than three decades later he was living in Blackville, SC, happily married to his second wife Laura with three grown children. On June 20th, 1910 he records another birthday note in his journal (below).

The papers of Edward Spann Hammond are a part of the collection of USC's Caroliniana Library today.

20 Birthday - 76. Thanks for preservation to this day, & for bounties bestowed upon me.

Artifacts and Memories of a Child

Frederica Wade Billings, aka "Skeeter," was born on November 6, 1926. The only child of John and Frederica Billings, she had their complete attention and adoration.

A collection of her toys, photographs, and writings tell the story of parents made complete in their love for her.

Our hearts are bursting with love for her and everything is subordinated to her welfare and comfort.

Illness struck Skeeter in September 1929 and the last few days of her life are recorded in the desperate writings of an inconsolable father.



Cocka doodle dum!
My dame has lost her gum—
My Master's gone to get her some.
She'll be all right when he has come
—with Wrigley's

Mother Goose up-to-date

A silly rhyme from the page pictured in the background of this display of Skeeter's toy roosters, hen, sheep, and goose now on exhibit in the Visitor Center.

I am worried because I feel she is slipping out of my reach. This is the sickest she has ever been - and Frederica and I are heartbroken at her condition.

When Skeeter died on September 28, 1929, John could scarce contain his grief.

I am no longer a father! I keep saying that without understanding it. To have no little girl to hug and love and care for and work for...

Although Skeeter never lived at Redcliffe, her brief story is brought back to life by John's words and her personal affects.