

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

UPCOMING EVENTS
AT REDCLIFFE

Scandals & Gossip

Sat, Apr 8 5:30 pm
\$9/Adults, \$6.50/SC
Seniors & Ages 6-16
Reservations required

A Spring Evening:
Art & Architecture
Sat, May 20 5:30-7:30
\$10/Adult, \$7.50/SC
Seniors & 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



KATHARINE FITZSIMONS
HAMMOND
in fancy ball dress,
circa 1894.

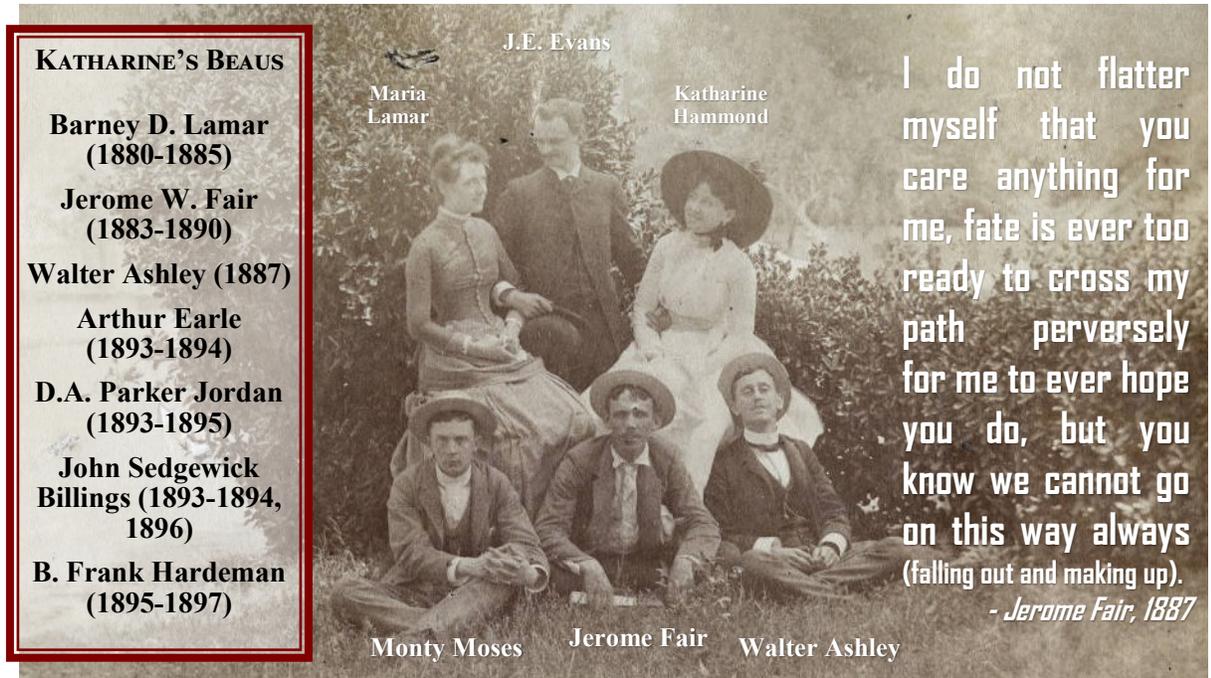
Redcliffe Southern Times

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 10

APRIL 2017

The Many Beaus of Katharine Hammond

Katharine after being your devoted admirer for five years I find that your hold upon my affections strengthens and that my love for you deepens as time goes on... I offer you my heart and hand in marriage. -B.D. Lamar, 1885



I do not flatter myself that you care anything for me, fate is ever too ready to cross my path perversely for me to ever hope you do, but you know we cannot go on this way always (falling out and making up).
- Jerome Fair, 1887

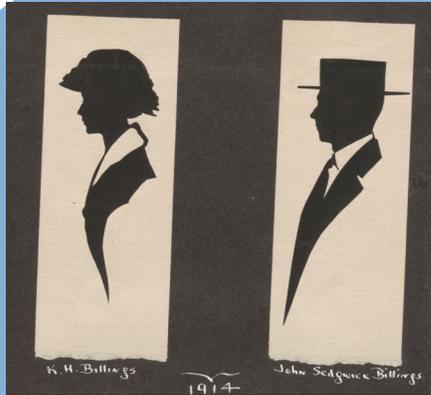
Katharine Fitzsimons Hammond was one of five children of Harry and Emily Hammond, Redcliffe's second owners. In her seminal work *The Hammonds of Redcliffe*, historian Carol Bleser describes Katharine Hammond as "a slightly spoiled but attractive, vivacious, and flirtatious young woman," who had "a steady stream of admirers, several of whom proposed marriage."

Despite a rather contentious courtship, Katharine eventually accepted the proposal of well-to-do New York doctor John Sedgewick Billings who wrote in 1896: "I have worked these two years and planned and been happy and miserable by turns all for you - but now I will do all that for and with you and everything I may do or accomplish will be done by two - in one." Katharine Hammond was married to John Sedgewick Billings at Redcliffe in 1897 at the age of 30.

(Above) Katharine Hammond and cousin Maria Lamar with several suitors, circa 1890. Photograph from the John Shaw Billings Photograph Albums. Used with permission from the University of South Carolina's Caroliniana Library.

"a fast woman"

When James Henry Hammond's son Paul expressed a desire to marry a Miss Loula Comer of Macon, GA in 1858, Hammond wrote his brother Marcellus to say that "**Paul is about to marry as you say and I fear truly a 'fast woman.'**" Whatever issues Hammond had with Miss Comer must have been smoothed over because the couple married in November of 1858.



Silhouettes of Katharine H. & John Sedgewick Billings



"In the old days, there were at least four people, and sometimes six, on the same telephone line. Each person had a different ring... one long and two shorts, or two longs and one short... The great entertainment was listening on the party line to everyone's calls."

From *Doc: The Life of Emily Hammond Wilson*, describing the 1930's.

The old
FITZSIMONS
clock
stopped at
1 A.M.
and I have
always
observed that
some one of
the FITZSIMONS
family dies
when that
clock stops.

J. H. Hammond, Dec 31, 1850

A Witty Anecdote

from *The Aiken Journal*, 1875

..... A few days ago, a very handsome lady entered a dry goods house and inquired for a "beau." The polite clerk threw himself back and remarked that he was at her service. "Yes; but I want a buff, not a green one," was the reply. The young man went on measuring goods immediately.

Of *Frivolities*

from J.H. Hammond's diary, May 1841

"Wearing out life in a round of frivolities. Eating, drinking and sitting up until I cannot compose myself to anything. My head falls off I go to sleep over my books, and any exercise worries me dreadfully."

Preservation Note: *Replacing the Garage Doors*



Park Technician Doug Kratz researched, sourced materials, built and painted new sliding garage doors to match those built in 1935.



IN 1935 JOHN SHAW BILLINGS transformed an old carriage house/shed (former slave house) into a garage with two sliding garage doors. The workmen who created the doors fashioned them out of **tongue & groove** pine flooring. Eighty two years later and the garage doors have seen better days. Water damage to the wood at the bottom of the doors has caused **extensive rot**. The doors, which measure 93 inches by 99 inches each, are being completely rebuilt by Redcliffe's Park Technician, Doug Kratz (left). If you stop by in early April stop by the garage to see the progress Doug is making!



Water damage to the lower portions of the 1935 garage doors.