

REDCLIFFE PLANTATION
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Redcliffe Southern Times

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Inauguration

UPCOMING EVENTS AT REDCLIFFE

*The African-American
Experience:*

RECONSTRUCTION

Sat, Feb 25 10 am
\$9/Adults, \$6.50/SC
Seniors & Ages 6-16

Scandals & Gossip

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

For more information on
these programs please
contact the park.

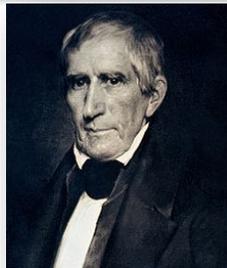
Park Staff

Park Manager
Joy Raintree

Park Interpreter
Elizabeth Laney

Park Technician
Doug Kratz

Asst. Park Ranger
Theresa Higgs



*It was the longest presidential inaugural address
for the shortest presidency.*

William Henry Harrison, Whig 9th President of the United States

Elected in 1840 with a majority of less than 150,000
but took the Electoral College with 234 votes to 60.

Ominous signs leading up to the Inauguration of William Henry Harrison

Gen. Harrison, the Pres. Elect, entered Washington on the 9th inst. when the great parade intended for the occasion was **defeated by a tremendous storm of sleet**... It is also mentioned by the *Globe*, as an indication of approaching disaster, that on New Year's day the scroll bearing the motto of the Union, "E pluribus unum," **fell from the talons of the Eagle** in the Senate Chamber, and the hand of the Goddess of Liberty in front of the Capitol, bearing the constitution, fell off also. **In ancient times such events would have filled a whole people with consternation...**

~ James H Hammond, Feb 14, 1841

no principle in common but their opposition to Van Buren..." Hammond follows this on February 25th with an entry stating: "Events of much interest are transpiring at home and abroad. Washington is now the scene of important changes as a new administration is just coming in and every mail brings us something new and of pressing interest, while I see daily here new movements on the social, financial, and political board."

President Harrison was inaugurated on March 04, 1841 and delivered his address—two hours in length and 8, 455 words—despite particularly cold weather. It remains today the longest presidential inaugural address given. On March 17th Hammond writes that he found Harrison's Inaugural Address "the most perfect specimen of 'non-committal' that has yet been issued from any American Statesman in a responsible station... It is didactic and classical—dwelling chiefly on the Constitution and consisting mainly of old general views, expressed in language good enough, but giving no definitive idea of his views of the questions before the country or his course in reference to them." President Harrison attended three inaugural balls including his own Tippecanoe Ball which was attended by over 1,000 people. Unfortunately he developed a cold which later developed into pneumonia. On April 9th James Henry Hammond records "Gen Harrison died on the 4th inst. Just one month President. This may be an important event tho' Vice Pres. John Tyler will be the President for the next 4 years... He is however a weak man, though not without talent."

In the presidential election of 1840, William Henry Harrison prevailed over the more urbane Martin Van Buren to become the 9th President of the United States. James Henry Hammond's diary entries throughout February and March of 1841 contain a good deal of information regarding the President-elect, the transfer of power and the eventual inauguration and then death of William Henry Harrison.

On February 20th Hammond relates that "the *Intelligencer* has officially announced the new Cabinet. I should perhaps say semi-officially, as Harrison has not yet been inaugurated and of course has not nominated them. The Cabinet is thought to be a strong one. It is wholly Federal, of course all Whigs. The conservatives... have no representation in it. The Cabinet, I have very little doubt, like the great Whig party will explode in less than two years. They have





James Henry Hammond was elected the 60th Governor of South Carolina in mid-December 1842. He was inaugurated on Saturday, December 17th and the following week most papers in the state contained mentions of the inauguration.

The Farmer's Gazette & Cheraw Advertiser published an account of Hammond's inauguration:

On Saturday last, our newly elected Governor, General James H. Hammond was inaugurated, with the usual ceremonies appropriate to the occasion. The floor and galleries of the House of Representatives were crowded with spectators, comprising not only the beauty and fashion of Columbia, but many of the most distinguished of our fellow citizens from other portions of the State.

James Buchanan was inaugurated on March 04, 1857 taking over the position of President of the United States from Franklin Pierce. Virginia Clay, wife of Senator Clement Clay recorded an interesting incident which occurred on Buchanan's inauguration day in her memoir "Belle of the Fifties."

On the day of Mr. Buchanan's inauguration a curious oversight occurred... The procession of carriages had already formed and the moment for beginning the march to the Capitol had almost arrived ere it was observed that the vehicle set apart for President Pierce was unoccupied. Inquiry was hastily instituted, when it was discovered that, owing to some omission on the part of the Master of Ceremonies, his Excellency had not been sent for!

The horses' heads were turned in a trice, and they were driven furiously to the Marcy residence, where the quiet gentleman who was still the President of the United States awaited them.



From the Columbia Carolinian.
THE INAUGURATION.
On Saturday last, our newly elected Governor, General JAMES H. HAMMOND, (elected on Thursday last,) was inaugurated, with the usual ceremonies appropriate to the occasion. The floor and galleries of the House of Representatives were crowded with spectators, comprising not only the beauty and fashion of Columbia, but many of the most distinguished of our fellow-citizens from other portions of the State. The inaugural address of Gen. HAMMOND, which we have the pleasure of laying before our readers below, is a sound, sensible, well-written document, brief, concise and direct.
Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives:
In receiving at your hands, the first office of the State, I am deeply sensible how much I am indebted for it to your kind partiality: and while I tender you the homage of my sincere thanks, I approach the high station you have assigned me, with an embarrassment and diffidence I have never felt before. To a zealous and conscientious discharge of its duties, I can venture, I believe, to pledge myself, and my hope is, that, by fulfilling this pledge, I shall be able to retain your confidence, and that of your constituents, though I may be found wanting in those great abilities which are not bestowed on all.

Document of the Month

“The Inauguration” of James Henry Hammond as Governor of SC from *The Farmer's Gazette and Cheraw Advertiser*

Historic newspapers are an important resource for helping to fill in the gaps left behind by the Hammond Family Papers (small gaps, but gaps nonetheless). As more newspapers become available digitally, they also become easier for Redcliffe staff to access and search.

The Library of Congress's **Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers** website (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>) contains numerous South Carolina newspapers searchable for the years 1789-1924.

During one search by Redcliffe staff for the name “Hammond” an account of the gubernatorial inauguration of James Henry Hammond in 1842 was discovered. The account, published in several papers but shown here from *The Farmer's Gazette and Cheraw Advertiser*, included the entire text of Hammond's inaugural address. The address was described as “well-written... brief, concise and direct.” The account is important because, although Hammond writes a great deal about the election in his diary, once he wins he quits writing and thus our accounts of his time as governor rely very heavily on newspaper accounts.