

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

UPCOMING  
EVENTS AT  
REDCLIFFE.

The African  
American  
Experience  
March 07, 2015  
Time TBD

A Spring Evening  
at Redcliffe  
April - Date TBD

For more information on these programs  
please contact the park.

**Park Staff**

**Park Manager**  
Joy Raintree

**Park Interpreter**  
Elizabeth Laney

**Park Technician**  
Doug Kratz

**Interesting Fact**

In a letter dated New Year's Eve 1905, Julia Hammond relates that it took about 1 hour and 40 minutes to ride by horse from Redcliffe to Aiken, SC, roughly 15 miles away. Today the trip takes just 30 minutes by car.

# Redcliffe Southern Times

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## Adventures in Fine Dining

### *When the Hammonds visited the Willcox*

The following story comes from a letter written at Redcliffe on New Year's Eve in 1905 by Julia Hammond to her sister Katharine Hammond Billings in New York. The letter is currently preserved in the Hammond-Bryan-Cumming Papers at the University of South Carolina's Caroliniana Library. Redcliffe Plantation has a digital copy.

### *Cast of Characters:*

**Julia Hammond** (narrator) - The 45-year-old daughter of Redcliffe's second owner Harry Hammond.

**Henry Hammond** - Julia's 37-year-old brother, a Superior Court Judge in Augusta, GA.

**Frederick Willcox** - The 38-year-old British owner of the Willcox Inn in Aiken, SC.

Henry took us to Wilcox's to lunch.

Henry said, "I want to order dinner."

The waiter drew himself up, "We don't serve dinner until six o'clock."

Henry, "Well tell the proprietor I want to see him."

Wilcox came up on his crutches.

Henry, "I want lunch for four."

Wilcox, "I don't think you want lunch here, our prices would not suit you."

Henry, "What are your prices?"

Wilcox, "\$2.00 a plate."

Henry answered, "That is all right."

After lunch (which was perfect) Henry called Wilcox to him saying "Mr. Wilcox your lunch was fine, but I appreciate more what you said to me at the door. I am the highest paid official in the state I come from & I am afraid the people will think I am rich & take my office away from me, so I try to dress poorly & your have shown me that I have succeeded."

Wilcox, all the smiling boniface,\* now answered in his rich English tones, "Well you know there will be mistakes. Lord Salisbury was turned down at Monte Carlo."

*We had great fun over it.*

\* Boniface (n) is an old term for an innkeeper.

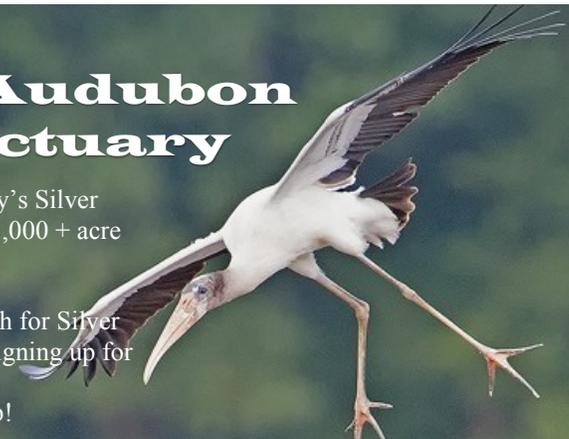
The Wilcox was established in Aiken, SC around 1900 and is still operational today.

Check out our friends at the

## Silver Bluff Audubon Center & Sanctuary

The former location of the Hammond Family's Silver Bluff Plantation near Jackson, SC is now a 3,000 + acre educational center and wildlife sanctuary.

You can check them out on Facebook (search for Silver Bluff Audubon Center & Sanctuary) or by signing up for their quarterly digital newsletter. Just email [pkoehler@audubon.org](mailto:pkoehler@audubon.org) to sign up!





*Thank You!*

During our recent event, A Cold War Christmas, we were excited to welcome back former park employee Melissa Jolley. In her current position as the Curator of Cold War Artifacts at the Savannah River Site, Melissa presented a history of SRS and Christmas to a crowd of 30 for our holiday program. Longtime Redcliffe volunteer Lynne Clarke was also at the event. She researched popular magazines of the 1950's and 1960's and prepared a variety of delicious holiday treats straight from historic magazines like Women's Day, Better Homes & Gardens and Good Housekeeping.

Melissa & Lynne—Thank you for your irreplaceable contributions to the program!

## Artifact of the Month



# Rose

In 2001 this rose was found pressed between the pages of a book (*The Ancient World*, Volume 1, circa 1915) in the Hammond family's library at Redcliffe.

Who did the flower belong to? Who gave it to them? Was it from the rose garden located in front of Redcliffe? These are just many of the questions we may never know the answer to regarding this dried flower of the past.

The flower was just one of numerous items including pressed flowers, newspaper clippings, bookmarks, holiday cards found when the Redcliffe library collection of over 2,000 books was catalogued in 2001 and 2002.