

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

UPCOMING EVENTS
AT REDCLIFFE

Hunger Takes No
Vacation Food Drive

Now - Nov 30

Donate at all 47 SC
State Parks

Vote Like its 1912!

Oct 31 - Nov 11th
during regular house
tours at 11, 1 & 3
Regular admission.

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

Redcliffe Southern Times

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 5

NOVEMBER 2016

The ELECTION that changed AMERICA

It was labeled one of the most contentious and controversial elections in US History—and they weren't talking about the 2016 election. They were talking about the 1912 Presidential election - one hundred and four years ago.

Although six candidates appeared on the 1912 ballot the big contest was between Republican William H. Taft, Democrat Woodrow Wilson and Progressive Theodore Roosevelt. Other parties running candidates in the election included the Socialist Party, the Socialist Labor Party and the Prohibition Party.

Months before the election even began William H. Taft and Theodore Roosevelt were vying for the Republican nomination at the Republican National Con-

Taft vs. Roosevelt vs. Wilson

Woodrow Wilson grew up just 10 miles from Redcliffe Plantation. His father was a minister in Augusta, GA from 1860-1870.

William H. Taft visited Redcliffe as the President-elect in 1909 on his way to get BBQ at the Beech Island Agricultural Club.

Theodore Roosevelt helped preserve the lands that became our first National Parks. The National Park System, a partner of the South Carolina State Parks, was founded in 1916 - just four years after the 1912 election and 100 years ago this year!

vention in Chicago. Accusing Taft of winning votes by fraud, Roosevelt stormed out of the convention and formed the Progressive Party, also known as the Bull Moose Party.

Major issues on the table in the 1912 election included Women's suffrage, labor, tariffs, conservation, government expenditures, cost of living, anti-trust laws—not too different from today.

During the first two weeks of November house tours at Redcliffe Plantation SHS will focus on the 1912 Election and conclude with a faux election where we will use replicas of a 1912 ballot to elect the President of the United States (in 1912).

Join Redcliffe for
"Vote Like its 1912"
now through Nov 11.

This portrait of John Shaw Billings (left), his mother Katherine, and brother Henry Billings (right) was taken in 1912, the same year as the election of Democrat Woodrow Wilson, the 28th President of the United States. Would John Shaw Billings, only fourteen years old at the time, have had any idea what the election of Wilson meant for the country? Certainly he would have no inkling of the world war to come in 1914, nor his role in it when he came of age. In 1917, with the country still under the leadership of Wilson, Billings joined the French Ambulance Service to transport soldiers away from the front lines. Months after Billings joined the fight, Commander-in-Chief Wilson would remark that U.S. involvement in the conflict was for the sole purpose **"that the world be made fit and safe to live in; and particularly that it be made safe for every peace-loving nation which, like our own, wishes to live its own life, determine its own institutions, be assured of justice and fair dealing by the other peoples of the world, as against force and selfish aggression."** World War I would end in 1919 and Wilson's presidency would end in 1921, but likely the effects of both would shape the rest of John Shaw Billings' life.



HURRICANE!

In August of 1893 a category three hurricane made landfall just south of Savannah, GA and swept up through the midlands of South Carolina. The storm passed over Redcliffe the night of Sunday, August 27 through the early morning hours of Monday, August 28. A few days after the storm Harry Hammond wrote *“the worst damage of the storm is the staining of the ceiling at the back door.”*

While Redcliffe may not have experienced much damage during the storm, Hammond did refer to the event as the Sea Island Disaster. Reports from Charleston, SC recorded that *“the wind strength-*

ened, as with an increasing purpose, from a gale to a hurricane, until, before darkness finally fell, it was howling in fury over the houses and strewing the city with wreckage and debris of every kind and description.”



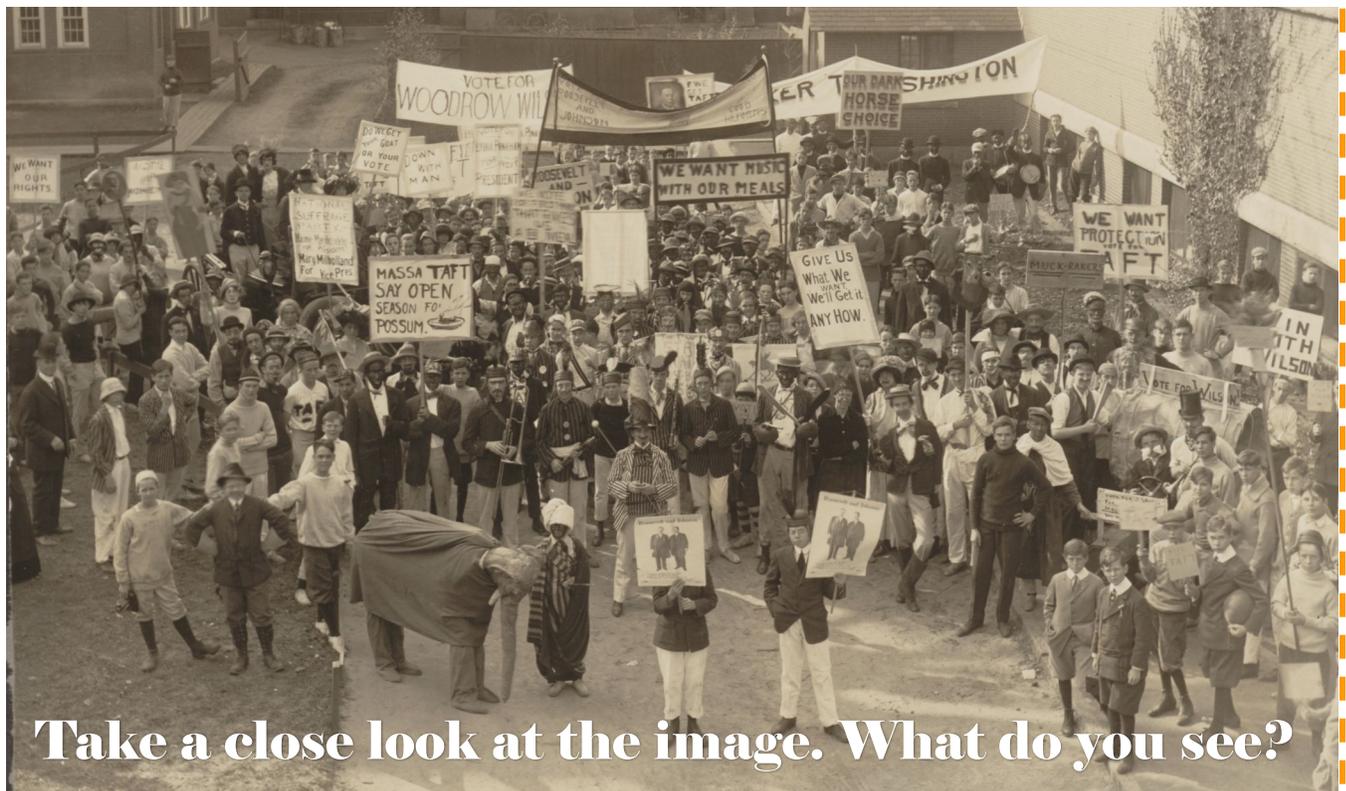
Weather stations in the Caribbean tracked the storm in its early stages and residents of Florida, Georgia and South Carolina wait-

ed with baited breath for local weather bureaus to indicate whether the storm would make landfall.

Hammond’s brother-in-law, William R. Eve, reported that *“the trees and houses in Beaufort looked like there had been a fire,”* but as to casualties he had seen nothing of them.

The Newberry Herald reported that the wind *“blew a regular hurricane for fully eighteen hours without cessation. The day closed with a beautiful sunset followed by a calm and beautiful moonlit night...”*

Document of the Month: 1912 Election Parade Photograph



Take a close look at the image. What do you see?

This photograph from the John Shaw Billings Photograph Album collection at USC’s Caroliniana Library, shows an **Election Day Parade** at St. Paul’s School in Concord, NH for the 1912 Election.

If you **zoom in on the image** you can see an **elephant**, signs for **Taft**, **Wilson** and **Roosevelt**, as well as **Women’s Suffrage signs** and many other interesting details.