

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

UPCOMING EVENTS
AT REDCLIFFE

Hunger Takes No
Vacation Food Drive
July 01 - Nov 30
Donate at all 47 SC
State Parks

African-American
Experience:
Cabins & Communities
Sat, Sept 12 FREE

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

Think About This!

If your daily food allotment was limited to a few simple ingredients like Hammond's slaves, what could you make or how could you supplement your diet?

**Cornmeal,
Fatback,
Molasses, Sweet
Potatoes**

Redcliffe Southern Times

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Nighttime in the Slave Cabins

Whether field slave or house slave, cook or carpenter, nurse or ditcher, enslaved laborers worked long hours. According to a plantation manual for the Hammond plantations, slaves worked quite literally from sunrise to sunset.

The same manual, under a section headed "Hours" also mentions that slaves got off work at sunset and could visit amongst themselves until the night horn was blown at 8 1/2 p.m. in the winter and 9 p.m. in the summer. That could mean up to three hours of community time in the winter and as few as 1.5 hours in the summer.

Getting a good night's sleep could depend on a number of factors: How many slaves lived in one cabin, how many young children might have to share the space with adults, temperature and of course bedding. There are more clues in Hammond's manual...

"Each worker gets a stout pr. of shoes every fall, & a heavy blanket every third year." In addition to this entry under the section on



"Clothing" in the manual, the section "Children" also mentions that

"Each child gets a blanket every 3 year. Children born in the interval

can have a blanket at that time, or the fall following, according to the necessities of the Mother."

While many slaves slept on the floor of their cabins there is evidence that some slaves on the Hammond plantations may have had mattresses. Returning again to the plantation manual under "Cleaning Up" there are instructions that "mattresses are to be emptied in the stable lot & fresh hay or shucks put in them." The real question is whether enslaved workers had the time to sew together spare bits of cloth or burlap bags for mattresses and then dry the hay or corn husks with which to stuff the mattresses.

Slave owner James H. Hammond forbade lofts in the slave cabins, wanting there to be nowhere to hide extra supplies or runaways. It meant that mattresses or not, enslaved families slept in crowded conditions on the floors of their cabin with no privacy whatsoever.

PUNISHABLE OFFENCE:

Absence from house after horn-blow at night.

The African-American Experience: *Cabins & Communities*

Saturday, September 12 10:00 AM—Noon

Free with donation of non-perishable goods to our "Hunger Takes No Vacation" food drive.

Special tour, presentation and activities which explore what life was like for enslaved families within their cabins and in their communities. Great program for families.

This September Redcliffe Plantation SHS welcomes **The Slave Dwelling Project**, an organization dedicated to raising awareness about the preservation of slave cabins. Learn more at slavedwellingproject.org.

THE DIAMOND IN CAROLINA.

An Interesting Letter From Beech Island About a Ball Game Between the Clubs of Millett and Beech Island—Carolina Hospitality.

On Wednesday last the Beech Island Base Ball Club, accompanied by the amateur string band of that place, boarded the 7 a. m. train at Beech Island for Millett. Arriving at Millett, they were met by the base ball club of that place and escorted by them to their grounds near the

At the close of the game three cheers for Beech Island were proposed, and right hastily did the fine fellows of Millett "whoop up" the boys from "up the road."

~ The Augusta Chronicle, 05 Aug 1885

A Fine Game of Baseball - 1885

On Wednesday last the Beech Island Base Ball Club, accompanied by the amateur string band of that place, boarded the 7 a.m. train at Beech Island for Millett. Arriving at Millett, they were met by the base ball club of that place and escorted by them to their grounds near the depot... The game was called by umpire Henry Hammond at 10 o'clock with Beech Island at the bat.

The game was a long and hardly contested one and one of the best amateur game of the season, as both sides "whitewashed" each other no less that six times as the affixed score by innings will show:

Beech Island	0	3	0	0	7	3	0	0	0	- 13
Milletts	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	- 5

Preservation Note: Then & Now - Slave Cabin



By 1935 the cabin pictured above was 78 years old. Two other cabins on the property had been torn down but John S. Billings restored this one cabin for the use of his paid employees. Notice the chicken coop and lack of a chimney in the 1935 picture. Billings restored the house, had the chicken coop removed, replaced shingles with a tin roof and repainted the building.

Can you spot all the differences between this 1935 picture of the Redcliffe slave cabin and a 2014 picture of the same cabin?

