The Library meets annually to elect directors, conduct a review of the previous year and inform the membership on what to expect in the coming year. It is our opportunity to meet with you, the membership and conduct the business of the organization as established in our by-laws. This year the meeting was conducted on February 24th on Zoom. Here is a snapshot of this year’s meeting.

Still feeling the effects and challenges of COVID-19 and all its variants, the Library persevered and experienced a positive year. The Library presented 34 classes, and had many visitors and residents tour our sites, participate in events and visit the Library. We continue to work at maintaining and preserving Zion Cemetery and Ft. Mitchel including creating new parking areas at both sites. We opened an office located at the USCB Hilton Head Campus that focuses on Heirs Property Family Research. This is a special project partnership with USCB, the Town of Hilton Head Island and the Gullah-Geechee Task Force. The Library published 4 editions of The Observer with special thanks going out to Elizabeth Hanson. And, we saw Library membership continue to grow. You – our members – are the foundation of this organization and we cannot do what we do without you.

The Library continues to focus on sound financial decisions while growing our endowment. Fundraising challenges brought about by COVID have made us think outside the box and take advantage of grant and loan programs made available because of the pandemic. We continue to operate in the positive and are always looking at ways to grow our income so that we can grow programs and projects. We are grateful to all our donors and members. Our goal is to ensure that your contributions are used prudently.

The membership elected the following to serve a 3 year term to the Board of Directors:

**Class of 2025**
- Ezra Callahan
- Claudia Kennedy
- James MacLeod
- Barrett Riordan
- Eric Washington

Congratulations. We all look forward to working together to grow this organization.

As much as we enjoy welcoming new and returning board members, it also means we have to say goodbye to members rotating off the Board. This year we say goodbye to Rich Thomas. In addition to his Board duties, Rich also gives hours of additional volunteer service to the Library. He has served as a docent and living history character for Zion and Ft. Mitchel tours, presented history classes for the Library and OLLI, served as chairman of the Advancement Committee, co-chair of the History Department, given talks to community groups and has been a contributor to The Observer. We appreciate his service to the Board and are glad that he will continue to work with us going forward. Thank you very much, Rich.

Each year the board recognizes deserving individuals with awards. Narrowing the field is never easy due to the talent and generosity of all our volunteers – you are all appreciated, and we wish we could give an award to everyone. This year we honored Elizabeth Hanson and Sunni Bond. I hope everyone knows just how much they are appreciated. See more about our awardees on page 3.

So, what is ahead in the coming year? We will of course continue to provide classes and programs focused on local history and ancestry research. Tours of our historic sites will run April through October. We are continuing to build a library of videos that tell Hilton Head’s story in the words of the people who live here or have passed along stories to their families. The Heirs Property Family Research Project will continue and grow. Special events including Ghosts & Myths and Historic Holidays will be fun adventures for visitors and residents. Your Board of Directors will be looking at updating the 5 year Strategic Plan, the Library volunteers are helping to develop a comprehensive guide to the Library and our services. You will see new...
Last year the Library started a series of video stories called “Our Storied Island” and in March we continued filming to add to the collection of stories that tells our history through the people who are here. This year we focused on stories that tell our “modern” history, while also including a story about finding your lowcountry roots. We shot with an eclectic group and discovered some fun and interesting stories.

We looked to the waters that surround us and filmed with Captain Fuzzy Davis, Captain Woody Collins, Barbara Hudson and Ben Green. The water that surrounds us is rich in sea life, much of which has provided sustenance since the days of Native Americans. The folks that shared their stories know the history and impact fishing, crabbing, oyster- ing and shrimping has had on this area. Their stories of hard work and adventure showcase why they have had such a profound impact on our island.

We took a journey through the family history of Col. Lamont Wells and discovered lots of interesting things. Col. Wells knew that his family reached into Charleston, South Carolina, but he did not know that he had a Hilton Head connection until our researchers unearthed some fun facts. The colonel’s video takes us through the story that Rick Bart, Kirk Clarke and Julie Orr unearthed. It was a great exercise showcasing what the Library does from the ancestry side.

We finished up telling the story of the Heritage Classic Foundation and the golf tournament that beautifully showcases our island at this time each year. Simon Fraser and Steve Wilmot provided history, favorite moments, fun facts and an analysis of the tournament’s impact on our economy. We also learned more about the Fraser family and other local leaders that worked to bring the tournament to Hilton Head and make it the premiere event it is today. We discovered the impact the Heritage Classic Foundation has had in our community. Their charitable giving, scholarships, volunteer and intern experiences have made a difference and will have a lasting impact on our community.

Watch for announcements about the upcoming videos and, in the meantime, take another look at last year’s stories. www.heritagelib.org/videostories.

I want to thank everyone involved in this year’s video stories and those who worked in the background to help us make it all happen – you were gracious and generous in sharing with us and it is appreciated. Monty Jett, Angela McSwain, Alexis Romero-Grove, Ahmad Ward, George Banino, Heather Rath, Tonya Hudson-DeSalve, Harbour Town Golf Links, Harbour Town Inn & Club, Hilton Head Island Land Trust, Sean Scanlin and Mitchelville Freedom Park, it is always a pleasure to work with you. If I missed anyone in this thank you, my sincere apologies – your contributions are appreciated.

Finally, in July of this year we will begin to celebrate our 25th Anniversary. The Library was incorporated in July of 1997 and this will be a celebration of the work of those that came before us and those that will continue to grow this organization. Watch for special announcements about this important milestone and don’t forget to continue to support us so that the Library can be assured of a 50th anniversary celebration.
Our Island History
The Talbird Family

Henry Talbird came from Ireland to the United States after a unique childhood. At the age of 3, he was ward to his Uncle Henry and heir to much of his Uncle’s wealth. Uncle Henry doted on young Henry but his wife was very jealous and had Henry left on his own in London. Captain Haylton heard the abandoned child’s cries and went to his aid. The Captain and his wife provided him a home and took young Henry from England to Charleston, SC. Henry moved to Port Royal, SC when the Hayltons passed away, and it was there that he met and married Mary Ann Doharty. He started a very successful business making bricks and building in the Beaufort area. He was given a Royal contract to supply bricks used to build the Tybee Lighthouse in Georgia and other lighthouses in the Southeast. Henry had several sons who fought in the American Revolutionary War.

John Talbird was given land on Skull Creek by his father when he married Mary Ann Ladson in 1777. In October of 1781, while John was a prisoner on a ship in Charleston, Mary was left to run the plantation while expecting a baby. In retaliation for the execution of a British officer by the Patriot militia, the British command in Savannah ordered the burning of all Patriot owned homes between Beaufort and Savannah that same month and year. A Tory militia unit from Daufuskie Island landed at Spanish Point and marched up Skull Creek burning plantation homes as they went. Slaves on the Talbird Plantation ran to the main house to warn Mary Ann that the Redcoats were coming up the creek. She had the slaves hide in the woods to protect themselves and bravely faced the red-coated officer in command. It turned out that he was her brother-in-law, Isaac Martinangele. He said that his orders required the burning of the house but did not say anything about the household furniture and possessions. His men were ordered to remove all the household goods, which were placed underneath a giant live oak about 100 yards from the house. That very evening, Mary Ann gave birth to a son named Henry. Henry became known as Yorktown Henry because his birth date was the date of the surrender of Yorktown. As for the tree, it became known at the Talbird Oak and still stands today on Hilton Head Island.

Learn more about the Talbirds on our website.

Our Awardees

HISTORY & HERITAGE HERO AWARD
Elizabeth Hanson

Elizabeth read every article and was impeccable in her organization. She works hard, pays attention to every detail and is one of the most gracious people you will ever have the opportunity to meet. We are all better because we worked with her. Elizabeth Hanson is and always will be a force to be reckoned with. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank Elizabeth for all her contributions.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Sunni Bond

Before moving to Greenwood, she kept the scrapbook documenting the story of the Library, taught classes, assisted countless folks looking for that elusive patriot that gained them membership into DAR or other organizations, and organized and edited shelves of resource material gathered to help folks with their research. Sunni helped with cataloguing and indexing so that the expanse of resources available through the Library can be accessed more easily. Sunni also headed up the project that provided the Library with an essential resource – our substitute 1890 census for Beaufort, Jasper and parts of Hampton and Colleton counties. The census project was a labor of love that took years to complete – it is just one more way that Sunni demonstrated her commitment to the research she loves. Now, that Sunni is settled in Greenwood, we are still taking advantage of her knowledge and skill as she continues to contribute to The Observer and special projects. Sunni is a gem of a genealogist and most deserving of this recognition.
Here Comes the 1950 Census

Every 72 years, a new census is released, making April 1, 2022, a big day for genealogists as the 1950 census will be released to the public. Census records can offer a lot of useful information for a genealogical researcher, but one must be aware that certain “facts” contained in a census record may not be totally reliable. As with so many things, the devil is in the details.

People often ask why there is a delay between the date of the actual census and its release. One widely circulated and accepted belief is that the census is sealed for 72 years because of life expectancy. This is not exactly true. From 1790 to 1870 each census was made available immediately after it was taken, sort of. One copy was sent to Washington for archival purposes at the Census Bureau. One copy was sent to local courthouses for viewing by the general public. However, the census available was for that local area only, so one would have to go from place to place to place to see the record for the entire country or even an entire county or state. From 1880 to 1940 the only copy of the census was at the Census Bureau. In addition, the records were not available to the public. Statistical data might be available but not information about individual people.

The census has been taken in this country every 10 years since 1790, and many format changes have occurred. Originally only men were census takers and they had to be able to read and write; however, the correct spelling of names was not a requirement. Names were often written phonetically—what the census taker heard and regional accents could greatly affect pronunciation and thus the spelling of names. Additionally, there are cases where the surname is spelled differently within the same household.

The very first census had the main purpose of determining how many males might be available for military duty if needed. Only the Head of Household was listed by name. All other residents of a household were simply “tick marks” in a specific age group.

The first census to list everyone in the household was the 1850 census, but even then there was no indication of the relationship of each individual to the Head of Household. You might assume the female listed who was near in age to the HOH was his wife, but you should not necessarily assume that she is the mother of all the children in the household. And she might well be the spinster sister of the HOH who came to look after the household after the death of the actual wife of the HOH.

Census records record the age of individuals in a household, either by general age groups or by a specifically stated age. However, it is interesting to follow an individual through several census records and see the age change, not by the 10 years you expect but with no rhyme or reason. You see, until the 1940 census was taken, no indication was given as to who actually answered the questions. It might be the wife, it might be an older child, and in some cases was probably a neighbor because the census taker didn’t find an individual at home; don’t put a lot of credibility in the age stated in a census record unless you find proof of date of birth elsewhere.

Census records vary as to how much background information they give on an individual. Early censuses give the place of birth by state or country only. In many instances, the information provided was often guesswork.

When the 1950 census is released to the public it will not yet be fully indexed. You will have to do some searching to find the people you are seeking in the census. Using Enumeration Districts for a particular city/county will help. Stephen Morse has a “one stop” web site to help determine Election Districts (ED’s). Just enter the info you know, and it will give you the Districts which you will need to search the census until the index is available. Here is the link to help determine Districts. https://stevenmorse.org/ed/ed.php.

Here are some additional links that we think you will find useful:


Curious what questions were asked in the 1950 census?
This link will list everything asked: https://www.archives.gov/research/census/1950/questions-asked

Census information will be available on many of the subscription and paid sites that you use regularly for research but you will also be able to find the information on free sites.
https://www.archives.gov/research/census/online-resources

In addition, the National Archives is doing a series of webinars about the data release and how to find and use what you need. This link will connect you to the webinar information. https://www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-series/2022

Don’t forget what has happened historically as we all prepare to dig into the 1950 census data. Make a list of people and their residences that you would like to locate in the 1950 census. Remember that genealogists all over the country will be looking at this data so sites might be slow due to large amount of traffic on each site. Enjoy exploring this new data resource, but remember that all research should be verified. Happy searching!
Many people take a DNA test because they received it as gift or are just curious. I have tested on all the major DNA testing companies and have purchased DNA kits for many cousins who are willing to test. DNA has confirmed much of my forty years of family history research and provided clues to help me break down some of my remaining brick walls. Genealogy requires lots of research on your direct and extended family, thorough analysis of the evidence you find in records, and recording your research in family trees and written narratives. DNA is another tool and form of evidence for your consideration.

Most of the advertising for DNA tests is done by Ancestry but there are a number of other companies that provide a similar service including MyHeritage, 23andMe, and FamilyTreeDNA. FamilyTreeDNA has been providing DNA tests for more than twenty years and is the only company currently testing male Y DNA. This article is about the most popular DNA called “Autosomal DNA” which has been taken by more than 25 million people over the last ten years.

Geographic Ethnicity: Autosomal DNA tests your 22 pairs of chromosomes and you inherit one pair from each parent. The DNA results provide you with an estimate of your ethnic origins by geographic region and connects you with close to distant cousins with whom you share a similar piece of DNA. Some people are disappointed when they receive their percentages of ethnicity in part because they are thinking of a modern map of Europe. You should think of regions of origin such as Eastern or Western Europe, Scandinavia, Africa, Central or South America, rather than a particular country. As more people have tested their DNA, the ethnic estimates have become more refined and more accurate due to the larger sample size. If you have not looked at your ethnicity since you first received your results a few years ago, I encourage you to look again.

Identifying and Building Cousin Relationships: To me ethnicity is just the frosting on the cake. The real value is in each layer of that three layer cake. The top layer is your immediate family, parents, children, grandchildren. The middle layer are the first and second cousins, many of whom you may have met at weddings, funerals, and other family gatherings. The bottom layer represents those distant cousins who may be the link to identifying an unknown branch of your family. Yes, every one of those DNA matches is your cousin even though you do not recognize their names. If you can identify a second cousin related to each of your four grandparents, then you have identified a person who can help you identify more distant cousins down each of your grandparents’ respective family lines. Ancestry provides colors and tools to help you separate your paternal and maternal lines. By identifying many of my first, second, and third cousins I have better than a 50% chance of knowing in which branch of my family a new cousin match belongs.

Successful Family History Research Requires an Investment of Time and Money: To have access to the DNA tools and to take advantage of the artificial intelligence, you need to be an Ancestry subscriber and to have a public tree. Living people (and others in your tree without a death date) will be noted as “private” when your tree is viewed by someone else.

Family history research is not copying names from other trees on Ancestry without verifying the evidence, relationships, locations, time frames, and the connectivity between families. Trees can provide clues when combined with shared DNA matches. My great-great-grandfather lived in Painted Post, Steuben Co., NY between 1860 and 1880. When I first began my research, the only other family I could identify in the 1860 US census was his probable brother and in-laws. Once I identified my third and fourth cousins using shared DNA, I realized many of the names on the adjoining pages were related family. Through them I identified his mother and grandfather an almost forty year brick wall. The shared family Bible of the eldest sister showed me the connection between his mother and father’s families. The eldest sister was not included in any trees on Ancestry because she married before the 1850 census. Again, the clues came from DNA.
The Heritage Observer April 2022

When the first members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints moved to Hilton Head they had to travel to Beaufort for services.

In January 1977, a Sunday School was formed on Hilton Head that was “Dependent” on the Beaufort “Branch” for support. There were 45 people in attendance at that first meeting that included 10 nonmembers. Members continued to travel to Beaufort for worship services (Sacrament meetings) until November that year when they were recognized as a Dependent Branch and started having all meetings on Hilton Head. Leadership support continued to be provided from Beaufort.

Meetings were held in member’s homes, Hilton Head Inn, Hilton Head Elementary School and Skateland until April 1982, when the church, which had been recognized as an Independent Branch in August 1979, moved into a converted mobile home on 3½ acres of land on Leg ‘O Mutton Drive that had been purchased in 1980.

In February 1992, ground was broken for a chapel on Meeting Street which is where the church is currently located. Membership increased along with the growth and development on Hilton Head.

With the growth in membership more space was needed and an expansion project was begun in 2016. During construction, which was interrupted by Hurricane Matthew in October, church was held at Congregation Beth Yam. The dedication of the expanded facility was held in October 2017.

There is now a Spanish “Branch” that shares the space and also some of the activities with the Hilton Head Branch. Opportunities for worship, education, fellowship and service are available for children, youth and adults.

There are currently more than 450 members.

Address: 2800 Meeting St, Hilton Head Island, SC 29926
Phone: 843-338-9278

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Church Histories

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Heritage Volunteers

Joe Player

Growing up Joe did not know much about his family roots. His father thought it was a waste of time talking about the past and his Italian immigrant mother would just answer family history questions with “We should all be proud to be Americans”. Joe is very proud to be an American but also has a keen interest in tracing back his family history and understanding how they became Americans and what was the path they took to America. In 1995, while still living in the Maryland, he took a class on “How to Make a Family Tree”. Couple that with his technology and research background and a love for genealogy grew and continues to grow today.

When Joe and his wife, Joan, retired to Hilton Head in 2014, he found the perfect place to volunteer – The Heritage Library. The Library gives him access to all the resources necessary to research deep into his family history. Joe has been able to make a South Carolina connection to his family through his father’s line. In that search, he discovered Roger Player, his 7th great grandfather who received his first land grant in SC in 1696 in Christ Church Parish which is now Mt. Pleasant. He has traced his mother’s family back to Falerna, Italy in the Calabria Region of southern Italy. As he continues his quest, he also gets to share what he learned with the patrons that come through our doors looking for assistance. Joe loves meeting the interesting patrons that come to the Library for assistance because every family has a story and you never know what you will learn about your ancestors and history in general.

Joe served in the USAF and followed his military service with a 40 year career at IBM. Joe has been a Rotary Club member since 2007, serving the club in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and here on Hilton Head Island. He was a founding member of Professional Business Women of New Mexico and served as their state treasurer for five years. This group promotes women’s rights and family friendly business practices. He also chaired the Technology Committee of the Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce. Joe played a vital role in bringing wideband internet to New Mexico at a time when dial up was all that could be found. He has worked in many technical roles but sees himself as just an old programmer – an area he truly loved.

The Heritage Library is lucky to have him share his skill, talent, passion for giving back and love of genealogy with our library patrons.
What is Autosomal DNA? You receive approximately 50% of your Autosomal DNA from each parent, 25% from each grandparent, 12½% from each great grandparent, 6¼% from each great, great, grandparent, 3½% from each great, great, great, grandparent, and just over 3% from each great, great, great, great, grandparent. Both males and females can test Autosomal DNA which links all of your family lines for approximately five generations. Beyond five generations the amount of shared DNA becomes less reliable. Many genealogists hit brick walls before the 1850 census which was the first census to list the name, age, and state of birth of everyone in the household.

Other DNA Tests: Y DNA tests are only available for males and traces a continuous male line: father, paternal grandfather, paternal great grandfather, etc. FamilyTreeDNA is the only company which currently tests Y DNA which appears on chromosome 23. FTDNA also does a Big Y 700 which is the most expansive Y DNA test commercially available. Y DNA changes very slowly over time and can be used to identify groups of men living today who share a common ancestor much farther back than Autosomal DNA – beyond the five generations mentioned above. FTDNA has surname group projects. You may want to check to see if there is already a group project for your surname. Women need to find a brother, uncle, or male cousin descendant from a great uncle to test her surname. Y DNA has been available since the early 2000s. I have used autosomal male cousin matches to identify a continuous male line for several of my maternal lines.

Mitochondrial DNA traces your mother’s line back in time and can be found on chromosome 23 for women. However, I don’t recommend this test because most women can trace their mitochondrial DNA back to a handful of women in early Africa thousands of years ago. Mitochondrial DNA is not a differentiator of specific family lines. Men can test their mitochondrial DNA for their mother’s line but they do not pass this DNA on to their daughters.

You can read about these other DNA tests and pricing at https://www.familytreedna.com.

DNA Results continued from page 5
Heritage Library Membership

This quarter we welcome 8 New and 18 Renewal Members to our Heritage Library Family.

NEW MEMBERS

South Carolina
Beaufort
Jo and Ted Panayotoff
Hilton Head Island
Catherine Mitchell
James Webb

Out of State
Kenneth Adams,
Plattsburgh NY
James Best,
Savannah GA

RENEWAL MEMBERS

South Carolina
Bluffton
James Closson
Kathy Reynolds

Hilton Head Island
Robert Blot
Morris Campbell
Richard Chalk
Barbara Ernico
Jan Ferrari
Barbara and Hudson Fesche
Patsy and Ford Hutchinson
Linda Jackson and Jenny O’Toole
Mary Jo and Terry Herron
Suzanne and Keith Moyer
Steven Strandmark
Madeline and Juergen Thiessen
William Younis

Out of State
Susanne and Patrick Crippen,
Centerville OH
Roger Malphrus, Troy NY

And the Cameras Rolled

Watch for a new series of “Our Storied Island” videos

Mr. Ben Green
Mr. Galen Miller
Col. Lamont Wells
Mrs. Barbara Hudson
Mr. Simon Fraser
Mr. Steven Wilmot
Captain Woody Collins
Captain Fuzzy Davis