

HISTORIC SITE TOURS

We are open for tours Thursday-Monday at 11am, 1pm, and 3pm. Special events and field trips may affect tour times. It's hot! Dress for the weather and bring water. We recommend booking your tour spot in advance by calling the park.

PARK STAFF

MANAGER
Ashley Rust

INTERPRETER
Brendan Lindstrom

CURATOR
Jordan Stenger

MAINTENANCE RANGER
Craig Norris

ASSISTANT RANGERS
Grey Bowden
Palmer McCay

PARK UPDATE

Redcliffe grounds are open 9am-6pm every day.

Please do not enter restricted areas as we continue to clean up storm damage. Access to the mansion is only provided on tours. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

REDCLIFFE PLANTATION
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REDCLIFFE

SOUTHERN TIMES

"Are We There Yet?" - Four-year-old Harry Hammond, probably

We have learned about how Hammond prepared for and traveled to Europe, but what did he do once he arrived? Hammond's European travel diary records visits by doctors and different medications to try. However, his diary also shows what he thought of Europe and demonstrates a great interest in purchasing fine art and living in luxury.

Upon docking in Liverpool, the Hammond family's arrival was announced in several newspapers. They stayed at Fenton's hotel in London and just a few buildings away at 32 St. James Street, Hammond purchased the travel guide Leigh's New Picture of London. He recorded visiting parliament several times, and even saw King William IV, whom he described as "an old man of gentile appearance but rather squat figure... his gate was a waddle, no dignity."

Hammond left England for France and arrived in Paris on August 26. He stayed at Le Meurice, a high-end hotel still in operation today. Established in 1835, the hotel was meant to cater to British tourists hoping for British comforts on the European continent. Hammond's diary is less vocal about Paris, but he is complimentary of their next destination, Switzerland. He wrote "all the mountain streams here ran this beautiful green color, I have not observed this to the same degree in our mountains." After two weeks in Switzerland, they made their way to Italy.

Daguerreotype photo of Paris taken in 1838, two years after Hammond's visit.
Boulevard du Temple by Louis Daguerre, 1838. Public Domain.



Hammond visited Venice, Milan, Florence, Tivoli, and Rome. He wrote “the people of Italy are so honest that to doubt their words or question a bill would not only be unjust but absurd.” At the many museums he saw “all kinds of birds... fishes, insects... an Egyptian mummy, the jaws of a hippopotamus, the leg of one of Hannibal’s Elephants” and more. Semi-complimentary of Italy, it was here Hammond purchased many of his paintings and engravings, including the half-size copy of the Transfiguration of Christ on display at Redcliffe.

As the Grand Tour was meant for the wealthy upper-class, Hammond’s marriage to Catherine Fitzsimons and her wealth based on enslaved labor and cash crops made this trip possible. The profits from his plantations covered their expenses, and the amount of money he spent in each country is documented. In England where he stayed for 17 days, he spent \$666.40. In France and Switzerland, he spent \$488.70 and \$244.80 respectively. He also spent several thousand dollars on paintings and engravings with a grand total for the trip of roughly \$16,000. In comparison, Hammond paid the overseer who managed his plantations, Mr. Love, an annual salary of \$500.

FASHIONABLE ARRIVALS.

The Hon. J. H. and Mrs. Hammond, at Fenton's Hotel, St. James's-street, from South Carolina; Mr. and Mrs. Morris and family, at Batt's Hotel, Dover-street, from the Continent; S. T. Galton, Esq., and family, at ditto, from Brighton; Miss Jenyns, at ditto, from Cambridge; Andw. Everett, Esq., at ditto, from Cheltenham; E. F. Berkely, Esq., and family, at ditto; Captain and Mrs. Mason, in Grosvenor-street, from Brighton; Mr. and Mrs. Coulson, at Raggett's Hotel, Dover-street, from the Continent.



Genève - Hôtel du Bergues		Paris - Hôtel de la Paillarderie	
23 - Par A. G. B. Puffenacht		100d. Colognes & quini 2 1/2	7 50
24 - Diner - 1 table white	10	Orang' 6 "	10
26 - Déguster / Salle-à-manger	5	Bagno	6
Diner	12.10	Thé	5
27 - Déguster	5	Appartements - 7 qrs. 25	56
Diner	12.80	Logement	4
28 - Déguster	5	Sonnettes	17.10
Diner	12.80		151.10
29 - Déguster	5		
Appartements (14 jours)	26		
Logement	2		
Arrivée le vendredi			
Rechange ment changeant	8		
Logement de chambre	18		
Logement de chambre	6		
Différence à l'aller	10		

Paintings	Original or Copy	Value
1. Triumphant of David, the ancient copy	Original by Bernini's shop (see other item)	200
2. Head of Eve from 'Adam and Eve' by Bernini	Head of St. Agnes by Bernini for one	50
3. The Calvary at St. Ursula's, St. Agnes	St. Ursula, an original by Bernini	100
4. St. Ursula, an original by Bernini	St. Ursula, an original by Bernini	20
5. 'Christ'. The original by Bernini, copied in wax	Christ, copied by Bernini for one (see other item)	50
6. Head of Christ, from the 'Transfiguration' by Bernini	Christ, copied by Bernini for one (see other item)	50
7. Charity, Original of Canova, copied in wax	St. Ursula's Original, better in wax	20
8. St. Ursula's Original, better in wax	St. Ursula's Original, better in wax	50
9. The Belle of Florence, Orig. by John Verelst, 16th C.	St. Ursula's Original, better in wax	100
10. Madonna, Flemish Original, anonymous 17th C.	St. Ursula's Original, better in wax	20
11. 'Lancelot', Original	St. Ursula's Original, better in wax	25
12. Portrait of a Boy, who lost his leg while guarding the dead body of his master a Dutch officer who was killed at the Battle of Dunbar Hill, Original		

Redcliffe’s collection today still has at least 30 artifacts that were purchased by Hammond on his European tour. These paintings, engravings, and fine ceramics were more than just decoration, they represented Hammond’s position in society, his education, and wealth. Quite different from the purpose of today’s souvenirs of magnets, post cards, and keychains. However, next time you visit Redcliffe be sure to ask your guide about any European souvenirs they can point out!

Top left: Newspaper announcement of Hammond’s arrival and lodging arrangements in London, England. *The Morning Herald* Thursday, Aug 18, 1836. Top right: Part of Map of London, 1836 showing St. James Street where Hammond stayed at Fenton’s hotel. Bottom left: Portion of Hammond’s European Diary recording hotel names, dates, and charges. Bottom right: Excerpt of Hammond’s European Diary recording some of the paintings he purchased, and their value. Courtesy of Hammond Family Papers, Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina.

ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

APOLLO DRIVING THE CHARIOT OF THE SUN

This painting is a copy of the fresco *L'Aurora* (1614) originally painted by Guido Reni (1575-1642). While the copy artist is unknown, Reni painted the original fresco on the ceiling of the casino house at Palazzo Pallavicini-Rospigliosi. The painting depicts Apollo, Roman God of the Sun following Aurora, the Goddess of the Dawn. This copy at Redcliffe was purchased by Hammond on his European tour and is included on his receipt list of paintings.



NEW INTERPRETER!

Hello! My name is Brendan Lindstrom, and I'm the new interpreter here at Redcliffe. I'm really honored to be here interpreting stories and history that are so important to how we understand our past, our present, and even our future here in South Carolina. I am originally from Hilton Head Island, SC, and I attended the University of South Carolina – Beaufort where I earned a Bachelor of Arts in History. For the past two years, I worked in Beaufort, SC with the National Park Service as a Park Guide at Reconstruction Era National Historical Park. Reconstruction is a history not often told and less often understood, and I am so excited to bring what I've learned studying this important era to Redcliffe.



While Reconstruction has been my focus these past two years, I'm really excited to dig more into Redcliffe's Civil War connections and its 20th century history. One topic in particular I'm interested in exploring is the transition from slavery to freedom for enslaved people both here at Redcliffe and in Aiken County more generally. I'm reminded of the story of Prince Rivers, an enslaved man who became the color sergeant of one of the first Black regiments in the U.S. Army during the Civil War, the 1st South Carolina Volunteer Infantry. Rivers went on to found Aiken County after the war, the only county in South Carolina founded during Reconstruction. He served as a trial judge in Hamburg, SC, what is today North Augusta. Rivers' story is one of many to be told of African Americans' experience in defining freedom for themselves in the aftermath of the Civil War. There is so much to explore and talk about here at Redcliffe, I feel like I'm only just scratching the surface.