

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

UPCOMING EVENTS  
AT REDCLIFFE

## Beyond the Gravestone

Oct 21 at 4:45 pm  
\$9/Adults, \$6.50/SC  
Seniors

## Redcliffe AFTER Dark

Oct 31 @ 7:30 pm  
\$10/Adults, \$7.50/SC  
Seniors

For more information on these  
programs please contact the park.

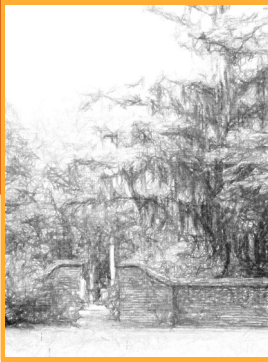
### Park Staff

**Park Manager**  
Joy Raintree

**Park Interpreter**  
Elizabeth Laney

**Park Technician**  
Doug Kratz

**Asst. Park Ranger**  
Theresa Hips



# Redcliffe Southern Times

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 4

OCTOBER 2017

## The DEATH of Little Kitty

*“At 1/4 past 5 her spirit was in its celestial home far from Earth & all things Earthly.”*

~ Mrs. Virginia Clay, personal diary, 11 Dec 1864

Catherine Fitzsimons Hammond, Little Kitty to her family, was born in June of 1864 and passed away just a scant six months later on December 11, 1864. She was the daughter of Paul & Loula Hammond and was born at Glen Loula—less than a mile from her grandparents' home at Redcliffe. She had three older siblings - Marcus, 5, Maria, 3, and Celeste, 2.

Kitty's mother's cousin, Virginia Clay, was staying with the family and recorded the heartbreaking details of the little girl's death in her personal diary as she kept watch over the child's body the morning of her death:

*Dec 11th  
Sadder still this morning at poor Glen Loula! The light of*

*the house & treasure of all my hearts is gone! Little Kitty, precious, beautiful little Kitty is dead! Impossible still it seems tho her little marble form is in the parlor cold, cold. She died most suddenly... Poor Loula is frantic with grief & nothing to help her. God keep her! I keep watch by Kitty...*

As was traditional in the 19th century, the child's body was laid out in the parlor, a room reserved for entertaining or the most formal of occasions like weddings, christenings and funerals.

Kitty's grandfather, James Henry Hammond, had died just the month before and was laid out in the parlor at Redcliffe for viewing. Hammond was, in fact, the first person buried at what would become

the Hammond Family, or Beech Island, Cemetery. His granddaughter Kitty was likely the second.

*Dec 12th*

*At 3:00 P.M. today we laid away our precious little marble baby in her last bed! Her grave was to her grandfather's right hand! I trust her angelic spirit was closer!*



## Beyond the Gravestone

Saturday, October 21 at 4:45 pm  
\$9.00/Adults, \$6.50/SC Seniors

*Tour the Hammond Family Cemetery & learn the language of tombstones.*

Register NOW at [redcliffe@scprt.com](mailto:redcliffe@scprt.com) or 803-827-1473.

## Redcliffe AFTER Dark

Tuesday, October 31 at 7:30 pm  
\$10.00/Adults, \$7.50/SC Seniors

*Learn about Redcliffe deaths and tour the historic home with the lights turned off.*

Register NOW at [redcliffe@scprt.com](mailto:redcliffe@scprt.com) or 803-827-1473.

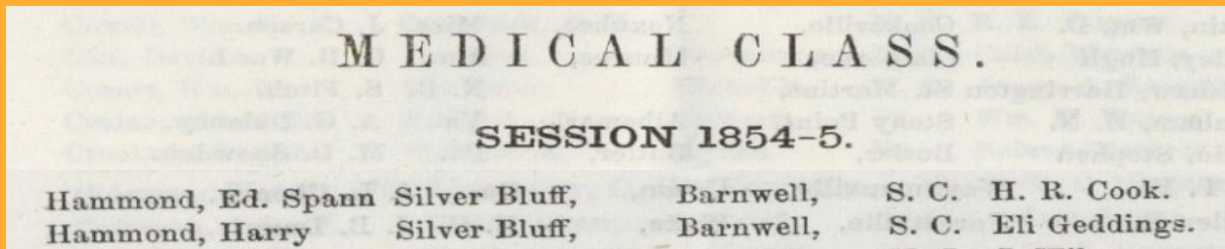


Harry Hammond's  
Diary for 1870.  
Courtesy of USC's  
Caroliniana Library.



Redcliffe's second owner Harry Hammond and his brother E. Spann Hammond earned degrees from the University of Pennsylvania's Medical College in 1855. Their names can be seen below in an excerpt from a college catalogue for that year.

Neither brother practiced medicine professionally but Harry's background in the medical field can be seen in the sketches (left) from his personal day book or diary from 1870.



Catalogue of the Trustees, Officers, and Students of the University of Pennsylvania, Session 1854-1855.  
Univ. of PA's online archives [http://www.archives.upenn.edu/primdocs/upl/upl1/upl1\\_1854\\_55.pdf](http://www.archives.upenn.edu/primdocs/upl/upl1/upl1_1854_55.pdf).

## Preservation Note: What's Old is New Again

There are exciting times to come over the next few months at Redcliffe Plantation SHS! We hope to get several conservation projects started over the next month or so beginning with the restoration of the upstairs hallway doors.

Doors take quite a beating over the years from rain, wind, debris during storms, sunlight, insects—you name it. The two second story hallway doors have long been in need of a little "TLC." On Thursday, September 28th the two doors were removed so that restoration work on the two doors could begin. Visitors to the home the first week of October may notice two replacement doors upstairs, but don't worry the old doors will be back soon and stronger than ever!

