

## HISTORIC SITE TOURS

Thursday - Monday  
11am, 1pm, & 3pm  
\$10 for adults, \$6 for  
seniors, \$5 for children  
6-16. Children five and  
under are free.

For more information on  
programs and group tours,  
please contact the park.

## PARK STAFF

PARK MANAGER  
Chelsea Stutz

PARK INTERPRETER  
Ashley Rust

CURATOR  
Jordan Stenger

ASSISTANT PARK RANGERS  
Lauren Jackson  
Gregory Jones  
Deslaun Scott

## PARK UPDATE

Please plan your trip with regard to  
the weather forecast. Our structures  
do not have climate control, so if it's  
warm outside it's warm in our  
buildings! If you visit, please dress  
for the weather as there is also a  
portion of the tour outside.

If you have questions about our tours  
or would like to schedule a large  
group, please give us a call!

**REDCLIFFE PLANTATION**  
181 REDCLIFFE ROAD  
BEECH ISLAND, SC 29842  
(803) 827 1473

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# REDCLIFFE

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## SOUTHERN TIMES

## HENRY BILLINGS ARTWORK

Henry Billings was John Shaw Billings III's younger brother. John Shaw was Redcliffe's last owner before the park was donated by him. He and Henry were great grandsons of James Henry Hammond. Henry was a fairly well known artist who studied at the Art Students League of New York and was a member of the Art Colony of Woodstock, New York. His works included larger New Deal projects for what became the Section of Fine Arts, spreads for *Life Magazine*, murals for post offices, night clubs, and more. He painted murals and paintings with a variety of subjects from landscapes, animals, sports, and machines, and many with surrealist elements. For the 1939-1940 World's Fair that was hosted in Queens, NY, Henry created an enormous mobile mural for Ford Motors. It was described as "the world's first activated mural."



Left: John Shaw, Katherine, and Henry  
Billings at Redcliffe in 1908.  
Top: Henry and John Shaw in Bay Head, NJ  
in 1903.

Images from the John Shaw Billings Online Photograph Album Collection. Courtesy of  
South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C.

We have a couple of Henry Billings' artworks in our collection. One is a color stencil titled *Marine Elements*. Henry did several artworks similar to this, somewhat surreal and mechanical representations of boats. We also have a painting of cut long leaf pine logs. According to our records, this painting was given to John Shaw Billings III to cancel a debt of \$200 that John Shaw had previously loaned to Henry. This work was exhibited in one of Henry's art shows in New York in 1946 and was given to John Shaw in 1954.

Bringing the two brothers' stories together is their involvement with *Life*. While John Shaw was the deputy editorial director for *Time*, *Life*, *Architectural Forum*, and *Fortune*, Henry Billings created more than one series for *Life*. Two of them were related to World War II, the first done in July 1941 before the US officially entered the arena and was a feature of several artists highlighting US defensive measures like ships, training, and troops. The next was in 1945 and was all Henry Billings – the series was called *Ground Strafing* and was meant to depict what "US fliers see during low-altitude attacks."

On a personal note, my (Interpreter Ashley's) favorite works by Henry are a mural of a panther in the ladies powder room on the third floor of Radio City Music Hall (can be seen at this link) and a really cool oil painting titled *Maize* (this link).



Henry Billings, *Marine Elements*, 1936, Colored stencil, Redcliffe Collection RC.0583



Henry Billings, *Redcliffe Pines*, 1946, Painting on canvas, Redcliffe Collection RC.0548

## ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

This cream and sugar set made by James Allan & Co. is engraved MBC, likely the monogram of Maria Bryan Cumming before her marriage to DeRosset Lamar. She was the sister of Emily Cumming Hammond, the wife of the second owner of Redcliffe. Maria died from complications in childbirth in 1873 and just a few days before her death wrote to her sister Emily, "I would give anything if you were here." "I am not frightened, but I wish it was all natural." This cream and sugar set was probably given to Emily sometime after Maria's death.



# UPCOMING PROGRAMS

REDCLIFFE PLANTATION STATE HISTORIC SITE

## EARTH DAY HIKE

SATURDAY, APRIL 22 AT 9:00AM

Join a ranger on a guided hike of the 1.7 mile trail at Redcliffe Plantation. We'll learn a little history while discovering natural resources and identifying plants on the site.

The trail is an easy to moderate hike on uneven ground. Bring water, bug spray, walking shoes, and dress for the weather! We will meet at the Visitor Center.

\$5 per person, online registration required.

**WE STILL HAVE SPACE!**

[Click here to register for the hike!](#)

REDCLIFFE PLANTATION  
STATE HISTORIC SITE

**SATURDAY  
MAY 20  
10:00AM**

PRESENTED BY  
DR. WALTER CURRY

FREE PROGRAM, ONLINE  
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED  
TO SECURE YOUR SPOT!



## LAVINIA C. THOMPSON: THE PERSONAL STORY OF SLAVERY AND CIVIL WAR IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Join Dr. Walter Curry to explore the life of his ancestor Lavinia Thompson. Lavinia was born enslaved on June 3rd, 1844 in Aiken County, and this presentation tells her personal story of slavery and survival during the Civil War. Lavinia followed her master into battle in the Civil War, serving the Confederate Army as a cook. Six decades later, she would be among about 100 black South Carolinians who received small pensions for their involuntary service to the Confederate cause.

Dr. Walter B. Curry, Jr., is a native of Orangeburg, South Carolina. Dr. Curry received a bachelor's degree in political science from South Carolina State University, and has earned graduate degrees in education, which includes a doctorate degree in Curriculum & Instruction. In 2018, Dr. Curry launched Renaissance Publications, LLC., a self-publishing company, which publishes books that focuses on African American history through ancestry. Dr. Curry has published two award winning books, *The Thompson Family: Untold Stories from the Past (1830-1960)*, and *The Awakening: The Seawright-Ellison Family Saga, Vol.1, A Narrative History*. His books are available for purchase in the Redcliffe Visitor Center as well as online at [renaissancepublic.com](http://renaissancepublic.com).



This program is sponsored by South Carolina Humanities, a not-for-profit organization; inspiring, engaging and enriching South Carolinians with programs on literature, history, culture and heritage.

[Click here to register for this presentation!](#)

# BEECH ISLAND TOUR

The historical society's 15th Annual Historic Beech Island Tour will be held Saturday, April 29, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The tour will feature 14 historic and unusual places to visit.

Among them will be Carolina Farms, a real working farm complete with a vast array of animals. Come pet and feed the animals and tour the farm's 1850s home near Jackson, SC.

Other sites include:

Trusty Farms, a plant nursery where Ryan Trusty grows a wide variety of unusual plants. Boondock Farms, an agri-tourism farm where Jarett and Laura Acosta sell homemade jams, jellies, and tomato pies as well as handmade candles, and Jenks and Gloria Farmers' beautiful old-school cottage garden where Jenks raises fields of crinum lilies.

Our tour also includes: tours of Redcliffe Plantation, First Baptist Church of Beech Island, Silver Bluff Baptist Church, The Beech Island Historical Society's History & Visitors Center, Country Store and Agricultural Museum, Hammond and Zubly Cemeteries, a 1737 Swiss Settler's Archaeological Site, The Silver Bluff Audubon Center & Sanctuary and Risher Cabin.

**Tickets are \$25 for adults (\$20 in advance) and \$20 for seniors (\$15 in advance). Children under 18 are free. The barbecue lunch is from 11-1 p.m. For more info, call Jackie Bartley @706-833-3651 or email [bdbartley@comcast.net](mailto:bdbartley@comcast.net) or visit our website [beechislandhistorical.com](http://beechislandhistorical.com).**