

REDCLIFFE PLANTATION
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Redcliffe Southern Times

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Historic

House Tours

Limited access to historic structures now available.

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

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—

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Redcliffe Update

Redcliffe staff will be providing limited access to the slave quarters and mansion. These "open houses" will be offered Thursday-Sunday at 11 am. The capacity will be 9 visitors with a fee of \$5/person. Check-in will be at the Visitor Center before 11 am. Due to Covid-19 safety concerns, face masks are required upon entering any of the structures. Self-guided exploration of the grounds is free. Please call the park for any questions.

Redcliffe Before Redcliffe

At the end of the month, Redcliffe will have some of its property surveyed and analyzed using ground penetrating radar (GPR), a method by which one can take a look at what lies beneath the ground's surface without actually disturbing the ground. In our next newsletter we will be sure to share more about that process and any finds we may make during the survey. This upcoming project inspired a look back at other archaeological work that has been done in the past at Redcliffe Plantation.

In the summer of 1981, an archaeological dig was completed "by the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology,

University of South Carolina, under the direction of James D. Scurry, and was sponsored by a grant from the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism who own and manage the property" (USC 1982, 1). The purpose of the archaeological study was to determine the boundaries of both the general site and structure of Old Yard as well as determine the dates Old Yard was built and occupied. For those who aren't familiar with Old Yard, it was a multiple story structure believed to have been built in the late 1700s and the home of the Milledge-



Galphin family before James Henry Hammond purchased Redcliffe in 1855. Old Yard is also believed to have been the home that the Hammond's occupied at Redcliffe while the Hammond's were having their mansion built, and where Catherine Hammond lived sometime after her husband died, until her death in 1896. In the early 1900's Sidney and Lena DeWalt, paid staff at Redcliffe, lived in the house for several years. Unfortunately, the building burned down in 1916 when hay stored in the

This house was built before 1800 by George (?) Galphin. It stood about a third of a mile to the west of Redcliffe. In the main hall was a very beautiful flying staircase, delicate and semi-circular. In this house lived my great-grandmother ("ole Miss") from the time of her husband's death until she died in 1896. Later Sidney & Lena, servants, were put in it.



Image from the John Shaw Billings Online Photograph Album Collection. Courtesy of South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C. Volume 1, Page 11.

bottom of the structure caught fire.

As one can see when looking at the section of the Billings scrapbook to the left, John Shaw Billings was one of the family members that mentioned the Old Yard house dating to the 1700s, thus that is what was believed by the SC State Park Service thereafter. After archaeological analysis, however, this historical tradition has come into question.

One of the ways those conducting the archaeological survey attempted to answer the questions about Old Yard was by analyzing the artifacts found within the area of the dig. An analysis of the materials used to build the structure of Old Yard from the report reads as follows:

"Of the total nails recovered during the excavations, 6104 (93.0%) were cut nails with stamped heads, 444 (6.8%) were wire nails, 11 (.10%) were wrought and 6 (.1%) were cut nails with wrought heads (Fig. 8). These percentages indicate that the house was built after 1825. A breakdown of the percentages of non-pointed and pointed wood screws indicates that 54.0% of the wood screws recovered from the excavation were non-pointed while the remaining 46.0% were pointed. In addition, 13 of the non-pointed wood screws were associated with hinge and door lock parts (Fig. 8). The association of the non-pointed wood screws with architectural hardware indicates the latest construction date of 1846. The combination of the nail and wood screw architectural data suggests that the structure at the Old Yard site was built between 1825 and 1846." PP 12-13.

After establishing the time period Old Yard was built, archaeologists also attempted to solidify the time period it was inhabited by analyzing additional artifacts.

"Traditional accounts suggest that the structure at the Old Yard site was occupied continuously from its construction until it burned in 1916. With the establishment of a construction date range of post 1825 to pre-1846, the occupation span of the site was maximally defined as the 91-year interval between 1825 and 1916. The artifact assemblage from the Old Yard excavations generally support this occupation range. Of the total 87 temporally diagnostic ceramics, 84 (96.4%) can be dated to the 19th and early 20th centuries. The remaining 3.6% consist of various pearlware types which date from the late 18th to the first-quarter of the 19th centuries (Noel Hume 1970: 130). The greatest number of the datable ceramics from the site consist of undecorated ironstone-whitewares (see Table 1). These ceramics were manufactured from 1820 until sometime after 1920 (South 1974: 334-335). Their predominance at the Old Yard site indicates an occupation year consistent with the range suggested by the architectural and historical data. This range is further supported by the more temporally diagnostic ceramic data which indicate that transfer-printed whiteware (1820-1850+) and molded ironstone (1850-1900) are the second and third most common types representing 21.8 and 10.3% respectively of the total datable ceramics (see Table 1). The cumulative date range of these ceramics (1820-1900) is consistent with the range of the more general undecorated ironstone-whiteware category." P. 13

Archaeological surveys such as the one completed by the University of South Carolina's Institute of Archeology and Anthropology are significant in that they can answer questions about a site or structure's past, and sometimes correct the historical tradition about such sites. The assumption that the building known as Old Yard was constructed in the 1700s came from the last owner of Redcliffe, John Shaw Billings. This account would seem conclusive having come from a direct descendant and inhabitant of the property of Redcliffe. However, as is often the case, there's the potential for historical traditions to change over time, from generation to generation, just like a game of "telephone." The archaeological survey indicates that Old Yard was most likely built sometime after 1825, rather than in the 1700s. As often happens when conducting research, when one question is answered, another arises. Was there ever a structure built here in the 18th century? Perhaps there was a building completed in the 1700s on this property as John Shaw Billings believed-but was it at a different, unknown location within today's Redcliffe property? Did it also have a beautiful flying staircase like Billings remembers in the Old Yard House? Or was it a more primitive structure meant for shelter until a later and grander house could be built? The answer, of course, is that we need to conduct further archaeological and historical research. Next month's newsletter will cover a new archaeological survey happening in a separate location of Redcliffe's property. Stay tuned on whether or not Redcliffe staff make any discoveries!

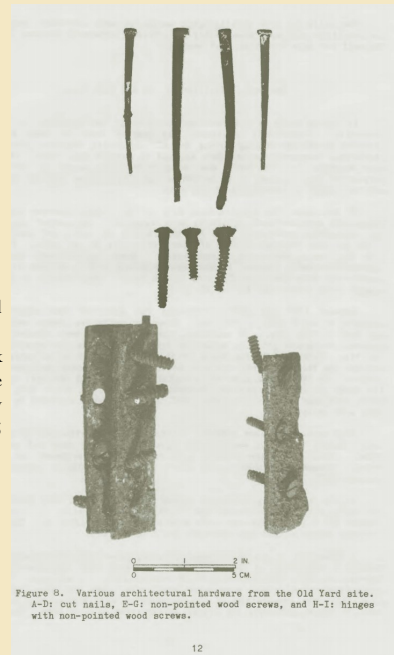


Figure 8. Various architectural hardware from the Old Yard site. A-D: cut nails, E-G: non-pointed wood screws, and H-I: hinges with non-pointed wood screws.

TABLE 1
PERCENTAGE OF DATABLE ARTIFACTS FROM THE OLD YARD SITE*

Ceramics		
Artifact Category	Date Range	% of Artifact Type
Red painted polychrome pearlware	1795-1815	1.2%
Undeglaed blue pearlware	1780-1820	1.2%
Undecorated pearlware	1780-1830	1.2%
Transfer printed whiteware	1820-1850+	21.0%
Amular ware	1795-1890	1.2%
Green shell edged whiteware	1800-1820+	2.3%
Blue hand painted whiteware	1820-1900+	1.2%
Polychrome whiteware	1820-1900+	6.0%
Undecorated ironstone-whiteware	1820-1900+	44.0%
Molded ironstone	1850-1900	10.3%
Alkaline glazed stoneware	1800-1900+	3.4%
Paleogeoptric glazed stoneware	1800-1900+	2.3%
Albany slipware	1800-1900+	2.3%
TOTAL CERAMICS		100.0%
Glass		
Clear bottle glass	1864-present	49.0%
Dark green glass	? - 1880	47.0%
Milkglass jar liner	1800-present	0.4%
Manganese glass	pre-1800-1917	8.0%
S.C. Dispensary (Manganese)	1899-1907	1.6%
TOTAL		100.0%

*Dates are from Noel Hume 1970; South 1974; Lewis and Rankell 1981; Green 1970; Kendrick 1960; Balkamp 1969; and Jones 1971.

New Redcliffe Merchandise!

Redcliffe has recently stocked new items in the Visitor Center gift shop. These include new post-cards and mugs. The images on these items are courtesy of local photographer, Mark Albertin, who took these stunning photos during a photoshoot at sunset. Some other new items include magnets, ornaments, patches, hiking medallions, and bookmarks, all from Hogeve Inc. There will always be staff in the Visitor Center prior to and after our 11 am tour, Thursday-Sunday, but feel free to call ahead if you'd like to stop by our gift shop and want to ensure that a ranger will be present to accommodate you.



Artifact of the Month

This month's artifact highlight is the ornate Rosewood piano made by John B. Dunham of New York City. Dunham settled in New York and worked for Clark & Company, piano manufacturers based out of New York City. He then moved on to a partnership with Adam Stodart and Horatio Worcester to create a firm that became reputable in the United States for the high quality of their square grand pianos. Setting out on his own in 1849, he created the Dunham piano company that continued his former partnership's work creating high quality pianos and operated until 1867 when one of his son's joined him and the company became known as Dunham & Sons. This piano, ca. 1840's, was reportedly given as a 9th birthday gift to Emily Cumming Hammond, the wife of the second owner of Redcliffe, Harry Hammond. Today, it is housed in the parlor where historically the entertaining of guests would have occurred. Perhaps it was played to celebrate the arrival of a new year.

"Dunham & Sons." <http://www.dunhampianochina.com/about.html>.

