



HOFWYL-BROADFIELD PLANTATION

Brunswick, Georgia

Volume #1

Fall 2019

Friends of Hofwyl –Broad field Plantation Newsletter

PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS FOR HOFWYL-BROADFIELD PLANTATION

Fall- Winter 2019

Sat., Sept. 14 3 p.m. Celebrate a demonstration of 4 Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation hives/ Program / Discussions. Honey tasting, educational, bee-hive observation by the Glynn County Farm Bureau Beekeepers Committee. Q&A with Susan Shipman and others on the Committee

Sat., Oct. 19 9-2 p.m. Sixth Annual Ophelia's Classic Car Challenge

Sun., Nov. 10/17 3-5 p.m., Sudy Leavy, dressed as Ophelia, reads her letters. Birthday Cake and Punch will be served. Ophelia Dent born November 14, 1886; 133 years; died September 16, 1973; 46th Anniversary of her death

Fri., Dec. 6 +7 6-9 p.m. 39th Annual Hofwyl Plantation Christmas/ Encampment.

Tues., Dec. 31 10-12:30 a.m. on New Year's Eve/Day
New Year's Celebration at Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation

Ghosts and Legends of Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation

DATES AND TIMES:

Friday, September 27 @ 6:30 p.m.

Friday, October 4 @ 6:30 p.m.

Friday, October 11 @ 6:30 p.m.

Friday, October 18 @ 6:30 p.m.

Friday, October 25 @ 6:30 p.m.

Friday, November 1 @ 6:30 p.m.



LOCATION:

Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation State Historic Site 5556 US Highway 17N
Brunswick, GA 31525
Located at intersection of US17 and GA99, one mile east of I-95 exit 42.

COST:

\$15

DESCRIPTION:

Take an eerie journey back in time at Coastal Georgia's most haunted rice plantation on select nights this fall. Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation State Historic Site will be offering Ghosts and Legends walking tours of the site. We will walk beneath centuries old Live Oak trees, explore the plantation out-buildings and finish with a lantern tour of the plantation house.

As we stroll through Hofwyl-Broadfield's moss laden trees hear the stories of five generations of plantation owners and the African-Americans who worked here, in both slavery and freedom. There will be tales of recent ghostly encounters, plantation folklore and the rich but tragic history of the Lowcountry rice fields.

INFORMATION:

Call 912-264-7333 for reservations or more information, also you may visit www.GeorgiaStateParks.org/hofwyl

To the Shores of Tripoli

by

S.T. Lanter



Figure 1 Commemorating the War with the Barbary Pirates the Mameluke Sword is still issued to U.S. Marine Corps Officers. Courtesy of Lt. Col. Thomas M. Kait, USMC, Ret.

“From the halls of Montezuma,” goes the first line of the U.S. Marine Corps hymn. Everyone knows the next line: “To the shores of Tripoli....” Hofwyl-Broadfield Planation or rather the Dent family has a deep connection to the fabled origin of this immortal line—Lieutenant Commandant John Herbert Dent was there! Marine Corps lore extolls the daring assault led by 1st Lieutenant Presley Neville O’Bannon--ironically under the command of U.S. Army Lt. William Eaton--8 marines, 500 Muslim and Christian mercenaries stormed the city of Derne, Cyrenaica (now Libya) on April 26, 1805. But O’Bannon was not alone, Lt. Commandant Dent, in command of the *U.S.S. Nautilus* was bombarding the shore batteries defending the city in support of the Marines.

John Herbert Dent was born February 22, 1782 in South Carolina. He entered the fledgling U.S. Navy as a 16-year-old midshipman on March 16, 1798 and was posted to the *U.S.S. Constellation*. During the next two years he distinguished himself for his courage during the Quasi Naval War with revolutionary France.

Dent was a young man on the make, he was posted to the *U.S.S. Constitution* (Old Ironsides) in September 1803. Commodore Edward Preble, commander of the U.S. fleet then fighting the Barbary Pirates, a notoriously hard task master who expected much from his subordinates thought enough of Lt. Dent to place him in command of ‘Old Ironsides’ during his temporary absence at a strategy conference on Malta in February 1804.

To the Shores of Tripoli Continued

On 4 September 1804, Commodore Preble placed Lieutenant Dent in command of the *U.S.S. Nautilus*, a schooner of twelve guns. *Nautilus* was dispatched to Messina, Sicily in January 1805. While in Messina Dent encountered an old acquaintance, a young author named: Washington Irving.

Irving records that while at Messina Dent deftly and diplomatically defused an international incident with the British. Passions generated by the American Revolution were apparently still hot whenever American and British sailors encountered each other.

*His [Lieutenant Dent's] stay ... was short and was rendered unpleasant by an unfortunate rencontre in the streets at night between one of the officers of the Nautilus and the mate of an English transport, in which the latter was killed. This occasioned much stir among the English in Messina, who insisted upon the Governor's demanding the officer from the captain of the schooner. **Captain Dent refused to give him up but pledged his word of honor that he should be delivered into the hands of the Commodore at Syracuse, with a full statement of the affair [my emphasis].** With this the Governor was satisfied, though the English were strenuous that he should use forcible measures, urging him to have the forts manned, and the Nautilus stopped from leaving the port until the officer was surrendered.*

What the outcome of the court-martial was, if there was one, is lost to history. Dent returned to the U.S. in August 1805. President Thomas Jefferson authorized:

... a sword to be presented to each of the commissioned officers and midshipmen who have distinguished themselves in the several attacks.

It is possible that the sword presented to Dent was the Mameluke Sword pictured above, this design was wildly popular in Europe at the time, but the actual sword was lost as recorded by Ophelia Troup Dent:

... great grandfather Captain [John Herbert] Dent distinguished himself in the Tripoli War and was presented with a sword by Congress, which sword he lent the great tragedian of the day, Cooper, to play Othello; sailor-fashion, he did not recall it until late, - in the various vicissitudes of an actor's life it was lost.

One gets the impression that Ophelia did not think too much of Captain John Herbert Dent. Dent died from "Country Fever" (Malaria) at his South Carolina plantation on July 29, 1823, age 41.



There are Beehives at Hofwyl– Broadfield Plantation

**Did you know it takes a lot of bees to get all the work done—
from 20,000 to 60,000 per hive?**

***Here are some of their chores:**

***Nurse Bees care for the young.**

***The queen’s attendant and bathe and feed her**

***Guard bees stand watch at the entrance of the hive.**

***Construction workers build the beeswax foundation in
which the queen lays eggs and the workers store the honey.**

***Undertakers remove the dead.**

***Foragers bring back enough pollen and nectar to feed the
entire community.**

**Come out September 14th to meet Susan Shipman and taste
some honey!**

Adults \$8 Students \$5 under 5 years old free

For more information contact:

Bill Giles, Historic Site Manager 912-264-7333

bill.giles@dnr.ga.gov or visit the website

www.gastateparks.org/hofwylbroadfieldplantation



Wanted: Car Lovers

Ophelia's Classic Car Challenge

Saturday October 19, 2019

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Classic Cars from all over Southeast Georgia will be on display vying for the championship in the Hofwyl-Broadfield Annual Car Show. Come and view the cars, vote for your favorite, and then tour the historic rice plantation. Presented by the Friends of Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation and the Classic Coastal Cruisers Automobile Club. Adults \$8, Seniors \$7, Youth \$5. Questions? 912-264-7333



ALBERT FENDIG'S HOFWYL-BROADFIELD PLANTATION
7th ANNUAL PLEIN AIR AFFAIR
TRAVELING SHOW/EXHIBITION MOVES TO DARIEN

The Traveling Show/Exhibition is moving from The Visitor Center on St. Simons Island to McIntosh Art Association (Old Jail), 404 North Way, Darien, Georgia, 912-437-7711, for the month of September. They are open every day from 11:00-3:00 p.m., except Wednesday, 11:30-3:00 p.m. A reception, sponsored by Friends of Hofwyl at the Old Jail, is scheduled for Friday, September 20, 5:00 -7:00 p.m.

Approximately 24 artists have their work on display: Stephanie Adams, Charles Bleau, Sharon Cacase, Linda Dotter, Albert Fendig, Caroline Gill, Phillis Harrell, Linda Humphries, Judy Johnson, Karen Keene, Patricia Klinefelter, Linda Lanter, Joyce Ledingham, Jeff LeMieux, Jeanne M. Leonard, Judy Missildine, George Netherton, Mimi Pearce, Jim Pearce, Aurora Pope, Mary Ann Rosenthal, Cheryl Simeone, Lori Ann Sweet and Ellen Winsor.

After this Show/Exhibition at the McIntosh Art Association, it will move in October to Hofwyl-Broadfield Auditorium for display or pickup until the next exhibition in April 2020.

For more information, please contact: George Netherton, 678-778-8889, gnetherton@me.com.



We Lost a Friend.....

Hofwyl Plantation lost a good friend with the passing of Bob Johnson. Bob and his wife Gail moved to Georgia from Connecticut a number of years ago and began volunteering soon after. Bob had excellent carpentry skills and found plenty to work on at the plantation.

Over the years some of the special projects he worked on included: stabilizing the Commissary Barn; building the arbor behind the Plantation House; building the bulletin board adjacent to the parking lot; building a sign for the office and hiding unsightly electrical wiring behind the plantation house. Bob also very generously gave our other volunteers access to the extensive wood shop at his house.

What I will remember most about Bob is his friendship and his enthusiasm for everything that went on here.

Our prayers are with Gail at this difficult time.

Bill Giles



Hofwyl-Broadfield 39th Annual Christmas Tour

Date: Friday, December 6 and Saturday, December 7, 2019

Time: 6 p.m.to 9 p.m.

Cost: \$10 for adults, \$5 for youth (6-17), children 5 and under are free

Description: Visitors will walk along the illuminated path under centuries old oaks and will be treated to a guided tour of the antebellum rice plantation. Enter the front door of the decorated plantation home where members of the Glynn County Garden Club Council will treat visitors to rooms beautifully decorated for the holiday and period dressed interpreters will share stories of the plantation.

History buffs will enjoy Company A, 26th Georgia Volunteer Infantry and other units as they re-enact a pre- Civil War muster of the Glynn County Guards and Brunswick Rifles militia units. You will have the opportunity to see cannon firings which shoot flames over 100 feet from the barrels. Step back to the mid-1800s as the re-enactors demonstrate camp life.

While strolling around the plantation, enjoy hot wassail and cookies as you listen to live musicians playing holiday music and singing Christmas Carols. Also Santa Claus has agreed to make a special appearance during both nights. Santa will be sitting by a cozy fireplace as he talks with the young ones; guests are welcomed to take pictures of Santa and the children in his specially decorated room.

INFORMATION: 912-264-7333 or www.GeorgiaStateParks.org/hofwyl





Join Us for a special New Year's Eve version of "Ghosts and Legends of Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation". Celebrate the New Year with an eerie journey back in time at Coastal Georgia's most haunted rice plantation. We will walk beneath centuries old Live Oak trees, explore the plantation out-buildings and finish with a lantern tour of the plantation house. At the stroke of midnight, we will welcome the new year by ringing the historic plantation bell and sipping sparkling cider.

As we stroll through Hofwyl-Broadfield's moss laden trees, hear the stories of five generations of plantation owners and the African –Americans who worked here, in both slavery and freedom. There will be tales of recent ghostly encounters, plantation folklore ,and the rich but tragic history of the Lowcountry rice fields.

The event is part of the nationwide "First Day Hike" initiative. There will be door prizes, also participants will receive commemorative lapel pins and hiking stick medallions.

Gates open at 9:30 p.m. Program begins promptly at 10:00 p.m. And will end at 1 a.m. Dress appropriately for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes. Walk will be about 1 mile on flat ground. Reservations are required to attend. Call 912-264-7333 for reservations or for more information visit www.GeorgiaStateParks.org/hofwyl.