



Volume #17

Fall 2023

Friends of Hofwyl–Broadfield Plantation Newsletter

Visiting and Programming

The historic site is open Tuesday-Sunday with the tour of the historic house beginning on the hour. If you have any questions about visiting, please call the office staff at 912-264-7333. This park is maintained by the state of Georgia. Bill Giles, Site Manager, can be reached at bill.giles@dnr.ga.gov.

September– The Plein Air paintings will be on display at the Hofwyl- Broadfield Auditorium.

September 10, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. Madeira Wine tasting sponsored jointly with the Mosaic Museum on Jekyll Island

October Halloween Scavenger Hunt all month

October 6, 13, 20, 27 at 6:30 p.m. Ghost Stories

October 21, 2023– Classic Car Show from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

December 1 and 2, 2023– Christmas at Hofwyl –Broadfield Plantation 6-8 p.m. each evening



They're Back!
Ghost Stories in October

Call the park office to reserve your place for the famous ghost tours at Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation. (912- 264-7333)

Each Friday evening in October 6, 13, 20, and 27 at 6:30 p.m. the tales will be told by our site manager, Bill Giles.

You will begin the tour by strolling the grounds as the sun sets behind the beautiful Live Oaks. Your guide will recount the facts with perhaps a bit of fiction on the side. The tales will be told just like they were told to us by visitors and professional spirit hunters. Wear comfortable shoes for an evening's walk and bring some bug repellent just in case.

Halloween Scavenger Hunt



Fall is fabulous at Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation. The cooler weather brings out fun for all ages at our park. There will be ghosts, pumpkins, black cats, scarecrows, skeletons and more.

**Tuesdays - Sunday for the month of October
Starting - Tuesday, October 3rd
Ending - Tuesday, October 31st**

The site office will supply a map for your hunt with your admission fee. Use your map to find the 10 sites and solve the clues in our game. There will be a prize bag full of fun items for you when you return to the office with a completed scavenger hunt page. We will have a special extra prize if you take a selfie and allow us to post it on our Facebook page. We look forward to seeing you at the park in October.

Have Some Madeira, M'dear?

Join us at Jekyll Island's historic Hollybourne Cottage on Sunday September 10th at 3:30 PM for a special afternoon of history and wine as we explore the unique connection of Madeira Wine to the history and culture of colonial America and the Coastal regions of the antebellum South.

This special Madeira Wine tasting event is being sponsored jointly by the Jekyll Island MOSAIC Museum and the Friends of Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation State Historic Site.

The event will include a generous sampling of Madeira Wines, interesting interpretive presentations, and a private tour of Jekyll Island's historic Hollybourne Cottage.

Transportation will be provided from the MOSAIC parking lot to Hollybourne Cottage via one of the Museum's special trolleys.

Strictly limited to 50 people registered participants at least 21 years old with proof of ID.

\$50.00 Pre-registration required at:

jekyllisland.ticketleap.com/have-some-madeira-

Hofwyl and Hollybourne

A historic bridge of friendship

By Mason Stewart



Among the more frequent entries into the visitors log at Hofwyl Plantation during the early 1900's was the name, Charlotte M. Maurice. She was the wife of successful bridge builder, Charles Stewart Maurice, a member of the exclusive Jekyll Island Club and owner of Hollybourne, a 12,600 sq. ft. tabby "Cottage" on Jekyll.

Likewise, among the more frequent entries in the Jekyll Island Club registry of visitors to Hollybourne Cottage during the early 1900's was Miriam Cohen Dent, wife of estate farmer, James Troup Dent, the owner of Hofwyl Plantation, a 1,200-acre estate located on the banks of the Altamaha River near Darien.

At first glance, these two ladies seemed to have very little in common. Miriam was from a once prominent southern Jewish family in Savannah, while Charlotte hailed from a wealthy northern protestant family in Pennsylvania. However, their

unlikely friendship forged a link between Hofwyl Plantation and Hollybourne Cottage that spanned two generations.

How did they meet and why did the two families become such strong and enduring friends? Well, exactly how they met is a bit of a mystery, but archival evidence suggests that it may have been because of their children.

Even though farm ledgers indicate that James and Miriam Dent were constantly struggling financially to hang on to the aging plantation, they nevertheless managed to squirrel away enough money to send their three children to exclusive private preparatory schools in the north. Their son Gratz attended the Taft School in Watertown, Connecticut and later graduated from Yale, while their daughters Miriam and Ophelia both attended the prestigious Rosemary Hall School for Girls in Greenwich, Conn., (later known as Choate.)

Coincidentally, one of Miriam Dent's classmates at Rosemary Hall was a young lady named Charlotte Maurice Touzalin, the daughter of a close friend and cousin of Charles Stewart Maurice. Along with being a cousin and friend of the Maurice family, records also indicate that Charlotte M. Touzalin was a tutor for the Maurice children on Jekyll. She also shows up in the guest registry at Hofwyl.

So, it is possible that the Maurices and Dents met while visiting the school. But, regardless of how it occurred, they and their children became lifelong friends.

Charlotte visited Hofwyl every year from 1900 until her untimely death from typhoid fever in 1909.

1900					
Charlotte M. Maurice	Maurice	Athens, PA		2/13/1900	2/14/1900
1901					
Charlotte M. Maurice	Maurice	Hollybourne		3/21/1901	3/23/1901
1902					
Charlotte M. Maurice	Maurice	Athens, PA		3/10/1902	3/18/1902
1903					
Charlotte M. Maurice	Maurice	Athens, PA		1/29/1903	2/2/1903
1904					
Charlotte M. Maurice	Maurice	Athens, PA		12/15/1904	12/17/1904
1905					
1906					
Charlotte M. Maurice	Maurice	Athens, PA		1/17/1906	1/20/1906
1907					
1908					
Charlotte M. Maurice	Maurice	Athens, PA		1/18/1908	1/20/1908
1909					
Charlotte M. Maurice	Maurice	Jekyll Island		1/18/1909	1/22/1909

The Jekyll Island Club registry shows a similar pattern of visits to Hollybourne from Miriam. There is a photo on the mantle at Hollybourne showing Miriam Dent (the lady in black) on the front steps of the cottage.



The library at Hofwyl plantation is full of books dedicated to Miriam Dent from Charlotte Maurice given as presents at Christmas time. Even after both Miriam Dent and Charlotte Maurice had passed away, the Maurice children kept the tradition alive for many more Christmases with personally inscribed books dedicated to their friends, Gratz, Miriam, and Ophelia Dent.

If you visit Hofwyl and go upstairs to Miriam Dent's bedroom you will see a faded photograph on her night table. It is of Margarette (Peg) Maurice, a close friend and one of Charlotte Maurice's daughters.

Emily Maurice's wedding at Faith Chapel is the only recorded wedding on Jekyll during the Jekyll Island Club era. Miss Ophelia Dent of Hofwyl was one of Emily's brides maids. Following a huge wedding celebration party at Hollybourne cottage on Jekyll, the newlyweds spent several days of their honeymoon strolling among the stately moss draped oaks at their friend Ophelia's plantation home, Hofwyl.

Though the Dent and Maurice families are no longer there, the lasting memories of their friendship are now preserved forever in the historic sites of Hofwyl and Hollybourne.





Left
Charles Maurice



Right
Charlotte Maurice

Couple on the left:
Whitney Dall and
his wife Emily

They spent their
first night on Jekyll
and the next two
nights of their
honeymoon at
Hofwyl- Broadfield
Plantation



Couple on the right:
Albert Maurice and
his wife Eleanor



Right
Marian Maurice

Left
Maurice Family
and Ophelia Dent
4th from the left
seated.



Classic Car Show Beneath the Beautiful Live Oaks
At Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation
October 21, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



The annual “Ophelia’s Classic Car Challenge” is presented by the Friends of Hofwyl-Broadfield and the Classic Coasters. It is held under the oaks at the historic site.

Come out on Saturday, October 21, from 9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Classic cars from all over southeast Georgia will be vying for the championship in Hofwyl’s annual car show. Come view the cars and vote for your favorite. Awards will be presented to the: Most Original, People’s Choice, and 1st-5th Places. All types of vehicles are welcome.

Vehicle entry fee is \$20 which includes park fee and lunch. General Admission tickets are: adults \$8, students \$5. This particular car challenge showcases the preserved 1970 Oldsmobile Cutlass, owned by Ophelia Dent, the former owner of Hofwyl-Broadfield.

Christmas at Hofwyl-Broadfield
Friday and Saturday evenings
December 1st and 2nd, 2023
6-8 p.m.

