



## **Friends of Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation Newsletter**

**Volume #2**

**912-264-7333**

**Winter 2020**

**PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS FOR HOFWYL-BROADFIELD PLANTATION**  
**5556 US Highway 17 N, Brunswick, GA, at the intersection of GA 99,**  
**one mile east of I-95, exit 42**

**Tues., Dec. 31- Wed. Jan 1 from 10 p.m.-12:30 a.m. New Year's Eve/Day  
New Year's Celebration at Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation**

**Sun., Jan. 26- 2:00 p.m. Camellia program highlighting the Camellias  
on the grounds**

**Sun. , Feb 9- 2:00 p.m. Super Museum Sunday: Discussion of the history and  
genealogy of the enslaved people at Howfyl-Broadfield Plantation**

**Sat., Mar. 7—10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Hofwyl Dairy Day including demon-  
stration of feeding and milking a cow.**

**Sat. Mar 28- 1 p.m.-3:00 p.m. 11th Annual Easter Egg Hunt on the grounds**

*A note from the site manager Bill Giles:*

As we look forward to 2020, I'd like to take the time to look back at some of the events and accomplishments of 2019.

As a historic site the primary reason we are here is historic interpretation. Over the past 12 months our programming numbers include:

New Year's Eve Celebration/Ghosts and Legends  
Attended by 97 people at \$15 admission  
Nominated for Most Innovative Program award

Ghosts & Legends of Hofwyl-Broadfield  
24 programs  
535 attendance at \$15  
\$8,325

Christmas program  
600 attendance  
\$6,600 revenue

Regular Plantation House tours  
1,253 tours  
8,075 guests

We installed four new solar audio boxes at various places around the site. Each box contains four messages with historical information that visitors can access at any time. These were paid for by Friends of Hofwyl, with a Friends of Georgia State Parks Chapters in Action grant. Hopefully this will augment visitor's enjoyment of our site.

We finally got the new shutters installed that had been constructed by prisoners at Ware Correctional. These were put in by several of our volunteers, most notably Jim Edison and A.C. DeVilliers, and marked the completion of a multi-year project.

In April we began an agreement with local beekeeper Patricia Varnadore to house four hives here. The resulting honey is then bottled and sold in our giftshop. Profits are split between us and Varnadore. There have been ups and downs, but we've produced one crop of honey. We bottled 144 four ounces jars and she produced three 750 ml size bottles to sell as a premium gift at \$50 each. These sold out in three days.

We finished an interpretive guide to the plantation house which is something that I'd been working on and off on for years. It provides a room by room guide to the plantation house for present and future interpreters. It will be a good tool for training new staff and volunteers.

This spring we installed six "Horse Pal" fly traps around the site. These were paid for by Friends of Hofwyl. These caught thousands upon thousands of pesky deer flies. We will see this coming spring how they worked. The idea is to catch the flies before they lay eggs, resulting in fewer flies in future years. Things like this are important as having the bees here hampers my ability to spray insecticide to control the flies.

We came out with a new Junior Ranger program designed specifically for our site. There is a book with activities that children can complete here on their visit. Once they complete the activities, they receive a special badge, also designed specifically for our site. We also completed a map of the site for children based on the "Hundred Acre Wood" map from Winnie the Pooh. The artwork was done by volunteer Tina DeVilliers. This has proven to be more popular with children than the Junior Ranger.

We have started a new agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture for feral hog control. They do helicopter flyovers of the marsh and have killed as many as 30 in one flight. They also have traps set up around the edge of the marsh. Results of this have been good so far and has reduced damaged caused by the animals.

We received a number of items of new equipment to help manage the site. We were able to get a skid steer attachment for our tractor with bucket, grapple and forks. This eliminates many man hours of work with dealing with fallen trees and limbs. We also received a new Zero turn mower. We have over 50 acres of grass to cut so that is obviously an important item. We also got a new John Deere Gator utility vehicle that can be used around the site and on our four miles of trails as well.

In August we hired a new employee. Her name is Lauren Bland. Lauren is originally from Alabama and presently lives on St. Simons Island with her husband David. She has done a good job for us so far and is very good with customers/guests. Thus, our staff is now:

Bill Giles – Site Manager

Faye Cowart – Interpretive Ranger

Andy Beckman – Interpretive Ranger

Sally Edwards – Part time clerk

Lauren Bland – Part time clerk

Max Aines – Part time maintenance

Over the past year we were able to procure funds to remove a number of hazardous Water Oak trees from our parking area. These trees grow overly fast causing the wood to be weak and prone to rot. Most of these trees are hollow and infested with carpenter ants. We are trying to ensure that none of these overhangs any roads, parking areas or buildings. We hope to be able to continue this project into 2020 to remove more of these trees before they cause any damage.

We have an ongoing project by a local Boy Scout as an Eagle Scout project which is clearing underbrush around several large live oak trees in front of the rice mill ruins. Large live oaks can become crowded with brush and other trees which blocks out the light they receive and saps nutrients that they would otherwise receive. They can die limb by limb when this happens. This will hopefully save several live oak trees for posterity and make the rice mill area more attractive. In the past a number of Eagle Scout projects have been completed here.

I've been able to get the funds for us to take out a full-page ad in Bus Tours Magazine. This is a trade publication for tour guides and bus tour operators. Back before the "great recession" bus tours from all over the country made up about 25% of our visitation. At one time it wasn't uncommon to see two or three buses here at one time. That has dwindled to less than 10% and is something that we are hopeful of rebuilding.

That's all that I can think of at the moment but no doubt I've left out a few things. The governor has called for a 4% budget cut for FY2020 and a 6% cut for 2021. So far this has not affected us too much. Hopefully that will continue to hold true.

Wishing each and all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

*Bill Giles*

Site Manager



Look for the interpretive signs on the grounds for additional information

Visit our gift shop for books, handmade wooden items, and Hofwyl honey.



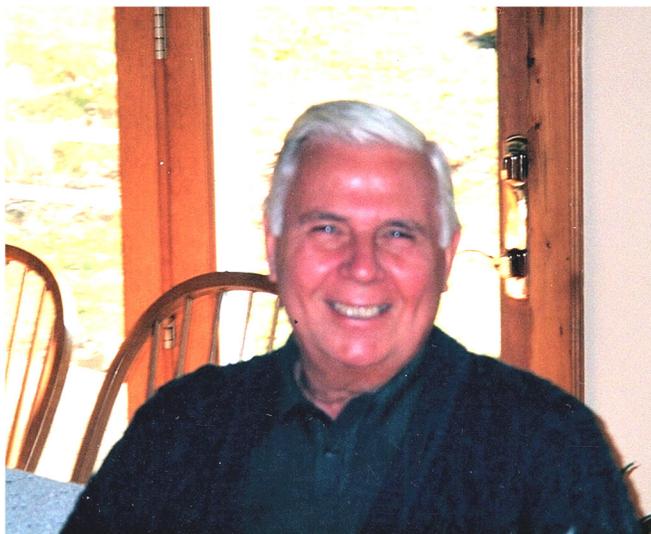


### OPHELIA'S LAST RIDE

The Friends of Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation State Historic Site are initiating a campaign to raise funds to preserve Ophelia Dent's 1970 Oldsmobile Cutlass. It has been kept in the garage beside the antebellum plantation house for nearly 50 years, and it is beginning to show its age with pitting on the body, rust, well-worn tires and the need for some engine work. The Friends of Hofwyl are dedicating their efforts on the preservation of this car to the memory of Bob Johnson, a volunteer and "long time friend." Bob was a skilled carpenter committed to all of the plantation efforts. His enthusiasm was contagious. The estimated cost of repair is \$3-\$5,000, Hofwyl friends will match funds up to \$5,000. If you are interested in making a monetary contribution, please make your check payable to "Friends of Hofwyl," and mail it to Gail Johnson, Treasurer, 164 Seminole Road, Brunswick, Georgia 31525, [gail021945@gmail.com](mailto:gail021945@gmail.com). Thanks!

#### Bob Johnson

"The friends of Hofwyl are dedicating their efforts on the preservation of this car to the memory of Bob Johnson, a volunteer and our long time friend".





## **Ghosts & Legends of Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation Tours**

**February 1st at 6:00 p.m.**  
**February 8th at 6:00 p.m.**  
**February 15th at 6:00 p.m.**  
**February 22nd at 6:00 p.m.**  
**February 29th at 6:00 p.m.**

**March 7th at 6:00 p.m.**  
**March 13th at 6:00 p.m.**  
**March 21st at 6:00 p.m.**  
**March 27th at 6:00 p.m.**

**Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation State Historic Site 5556 US Highway 17N**

**Brunswick, GA 31525, located at intersection of US17 and GA 99, 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 year. 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](http://www.GeorgiaStateParks.org/hofwyl)



## **New Years Eve Hofwyl-Broadfield Style**

**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](http://www.GeorgiaStateParks.org/hofwyl).**

**These beautiful Camellia cultivars are on the grounds of Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation**



### **Camellias in our Southern Gardens**

**Sunday, January 26, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.**

**Fee: \$8.00 includes a house and garden tour**

**Master Gardener Linda Hlozansky will discuss the Camellias at Hofwyl-Broadfield plantation and those in your landscape. Topics to be discussed will include pruning, diseases, insect pests, and bud drop. Tips for prevention and treatment of these problems will be explained. Photos of favorite cultivars will be shown. We will tour the plantation house, and come dressed for a walk in the garden to see the Camellias at the Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation.**

# Super Museum Sunday

To spotlight Georgia's fascinating past, State Historic Sites are offering free admission on Super Museum Sunday, Feb. 9th, 2020!

At 2:00 p.m., Dr. William H.A. Collins, Curator of the Burning of Darian Museum, and historical genealogist, Amy Hedrick from glynnngen.com will discuss the lives and genealogy of the enslaved families who labored at the plantation and their role in the cultivation and development of the famous rice fields of the Altamaha River Delta. This will be a historically significant event and seating is limited, so plan to arrive early.

Hofwyl– Broadfield Plantation State Historic Site is owned and operated by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. For more information contact :

Bill Giles, Historic Site Manager at 912-264-7333

[bill.giles@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:bill.giles@dnr.ga.gov)



**Friends of Historic Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation Present:**

**Moovin' and Groovin'**

**Saturday, March 7, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.**

**Did you know that the Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation was once a dairy farm? It's true. From 1915 to 1942 Miriam and Ophelia Dent managed the dairy with help from their brother Gratz Dent. We want to invite our modern day friends to come out to the farm and learn about the dairy industry.**

**Nicole Duvall, a Mobile Dairy Instructor, will bring a 30 ft. mobile dairy classroom to the plantation. The classroom features a fully operational milking parlor containing a live cow used for milking and feeding demonstrations. The educational information ranges from lactation cycles and the milking process to milk processing and the overall importance of dairy in a healthy diet. The demonstration lasts from 25 to 45 minutes. Please visit the historic house and buildings used in the dairy operation.**

**Cost of admission is \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors, \$5 youth 6-17 and children ages 5 and under are free. If you have questions, call Bill Giles, Site manager at 912-264-7333.**



**The Easter Bunny returns to Hofwyl– Broadfield Plantation on Saturday, March 28th from 1-3 p.m. Join us for refreshments, fun + games and of course an Egg Hunt.**



## *All About the Family...*

### **The Woman in Blue**

By  
S.T. Lanter



*Figure 1 Hannah Heyward Troup Morris. Courtesy of the Hofwyl-Broadfield State Historic Site.*

At first blush she appears as a cold, distant figure carved from stone, the “Marble Woman” as she gazes down from the place of honor above the fireplace mantel. Attired in a fashionable blue dress, eternally young, vibrant, sophisticated, mysterious, silent, she watches with hard eyes and regal bearing the everyday comings and goings of visitors to the old plantation house. Her portrait fashioned long ago in far off China, is of a beautiful woman patiently awaiting the return of her husband from the sea. She is Hannah Heyward Troup Morris, the youngest daughter of Dr. James M. Troup and Camilla Brailsford Troup—born October 15, 1831 in the Troup summer home at Baisden’s Bluff, Ga.

As befitted a wealthy young heiress of her station she married a dashing young naval officer, Charles Manigault Morris or C. Manigault Morris as he preferred to be known. Morris commissioned Chinese artists to create this portrait of his bride, perhaps from a miniature portrait of her that he carried with him to the far east. Morris serving on the *U.S.S. Mississippi* was on an important military and diplomatic mission under Commodore Matthew C. Perry—forcing open the trade door with the reclusive Shogun of Japan. The *U.S.S. Mississippi* departed from Norfolk, Va., November 24, 1852.

Hannah, as a good navy wife, uncomplainingly awaited the return of Charles—perhaps at the family summer residence at Baisden’s Bluff where she was born. Like most Glynn County planter’s, she and the entire family fled the hot, sultry, ‘miasmial air’ and ‘Country Fever’ (Malaria) of the rice plantations.  
Cont.

In the summer of 1854 Charles had been gone almost two years, the family determined to visit healthier climes and traveled to Sweet Springs, Va., in Monroe County to take the healing waters at the famed Spa and to enjoy the company of family. Hannah traveled with her extended family including her 19-year-old brother James Robert Troup, her sister Ophelia Troup Dent, her brother-in-law George Dent and nephew 6-year-old James. The trip was long and fatiguing involving travel by ship, railroad and carriage.

But tragedy was in the offing. As reported by the *Richmond Daily Dispatch*, Monday, October 2, 1854:

*Painful Accident—An accident of a painful character occurred at the Sweet Springs about three weeks since, which is thus described by the Charlottesville Advocate: Mrs. Harris, the wife of Lt. Harris of the Navy, and daughter of Governor Troupe of Georgia, in endeavoring to extinguish the flames which had caught the curtain of her room from a candle placed in the window, had her clothes to catch on fire, and before she was rescued from the fire, was burnt in a most shocking manner. Notwithstanding all that able physicians could do to alleviate her suffering, her condition was so excruciatingly painful that her constant prayer was for death.—Her brother, a young Mr. Troupe, and her brother in law, Mr. Dent of Georgia, were also badly burnt in their efforts to save Mrs. Harris. We have learned from passengers from the Springs, that Mrs. Harris' condition last week somewhat proved, though still very painful and critical.*

The *Charlottesville Advocate* got some of the details wrong. Hannah's married name was Morris not Harris and Governor George Troup was not her father but her uncle. However, the reporter got the seriousness of her injuries correct. Hannah lingered and suffered until November 10, 1854.

The *U.S.S. Mississippi* docked in San Francisco November 27, 1854. There waiting for Lt. Morris was a letter, probably from Ophelia, informing him of Hannah's injuries. Morris immediately requested a leave from Commander D.G. Farragut—yes, that Farragut.

*Sir,*

*Upon our arrival at San Francisco I learned that a terrible casualty with a generally believed fatal result, had befallen Mrs. Morris. Since arriving here (whence the information was derived) I am convinced that a most serious accident has happened to my wife by fire, tho not with any certainty that she has fallen a victim to it. Under these circumstances I respectfully and earnestly request a leave of absence that I may hasten by the first steamer to New York.*

*Very Respectfully  
Your Obt. Servt.  
C. Manigault Morris*

Lt. Morris sailed from San Francisco to Panama on November 28, 1854, crossed the Isthmus of Panama, boarded a steamer on the Caribbean side to New York City, took a train south and was in Charlottesville, Va., on December 30, 1854. An amazingly rapid transit from west to east coast of only 33 days. But he was already too late. All that remained to do was return Hannah's body to Georgia for burial in the Troup plot in the now badly rundown cemetery at Eulonia, Ga. She was 23.