



Volume #5

Fall 2020

Hofwyl– Broadfield Plantation

Located at 5556 US Highway 17 N, Brunswick, GA,
at the intersection of GA 99, one mile east of I-95, exit 42

Visiting and Programming

We are now open in a semi-normal fashion Wednesday– Sunday 9-5. The visitor center is allowing 12 people inside at a time. The plantation house first floor is open. Before entering the house, the ranger will tell you about the history of the house, the families, and a little about rice production in coastal Georgia. There is a marked path through the house to aid in social distancing.

We are hopeful that this fall or winter we can have more activities at the park, but your health and safety are the primary consideration in planning.

***FRIENDS OF HOFWYL
PRESENT
“ALBERT’S 8TH ANNUAL PLEIN AIR AFFAIR”***

Even though “Albert’s 8th Annual Plein Air Affair,” sponsored by the Friends of Hofwyl, was cancelled this year due to Covid 19, the Friends exhibited works from previous years at the Golden Isles Welcome Center through August 31. For the month of September the exhibit will move to the “Old Jail” off Route 17, McIntosh Art Association in Darien, Georgia.

Between 40 and 50 artists from around the region come to Hofwyl Plantation each Spring to paint the many scenes of these beautiful 800 year-old moss-draped Live oaks, scenic vistas across rice fields, and a 150 year-old antebellum plantation house and barns, old tractors and out buildings. This is done in honor of Albert Fendig and his many contributions to historic preservation and local art.

The good news is, life goes on! We were able to put together an exhibit using many of the paintings from previous years’ events. The exhibit is a fascinating mix of styles and mediums including Oil, Watercolor, Pastel, etc., from the many artists participating. Don’t miss this fascinating and beautiful exhibit. Each piece is labeled with the title, artist’s name and purchase price, if interested. The exhibit site is located at 404 Northway Street, Darien, Georgia. It is open Thursday through Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., 912-437-7711. The exhibit was taken from a more permanent exhibit at Hofwyl and will be combined with it in October. Hofwyl Plantation is situated between Brunswick and Darien on US Highway 17, 1 mile east of I-95, exit #42 (GA Route 99). Hours of operation: Wednesday-Sunday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact George Netherton at 678-778-8889 or email him at gnetherton@me.com.

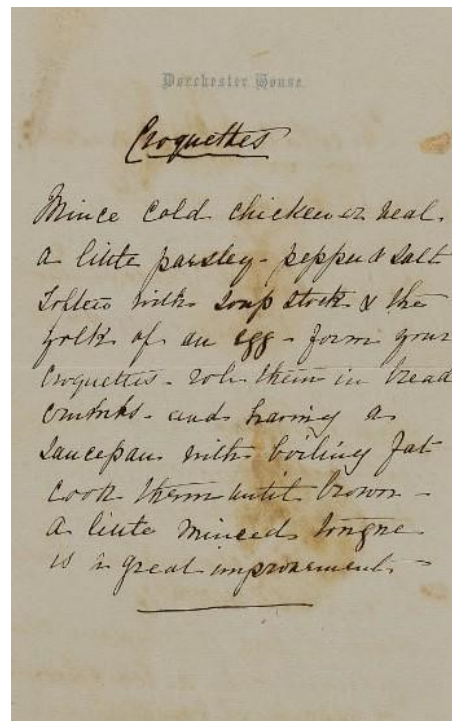
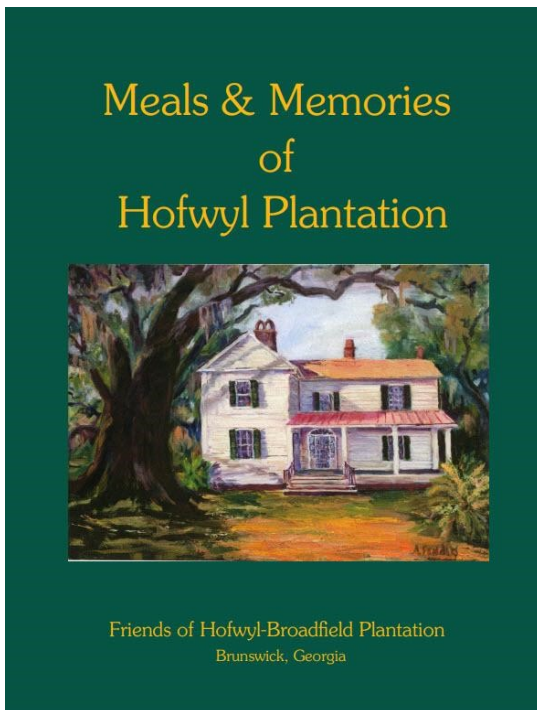


The “Old Jail” or the McIntosh Art Association, Darien, Georgia is the site for the art exhibit in September 2020.

Coming
Soon

Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation Cookbook

The Friends of Hofwyl have been working hard during this year of social distancing. We worked separately in our homes typing and editing recipes, drawing special illustrations, and testing recipes for our cookbook. It is going to be a very special addition to the plantation gift shop. The book is so much more than a cookbook. It is history. It describes the methods for preserving meats before refrigeration, contains recipes for spirits, recipes for cleaning supplies, and medical advice! To our delight some of the recipes had dates on them or mentioned the very special person that supplied the recipe for the family. Imagine recipes that span two centuries. The cookbook will be called Meals and Memories of Hofwyl Plantation. We will keep you informed on our progress. We are just as anxious as you are to get a copy!





**Friends of
Hofwyl-Broadfield
Plantation**



*Presents the
7th year*

COVID-19
We will observe
CDC guidelines

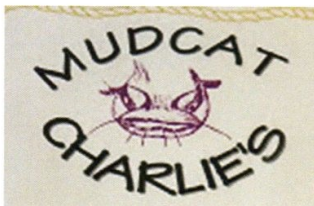
Ophelia's Classic Car CHALLENGE



Sat. Oct. 17th - 9am 2pm

All proceeds go directly to the Plantation

BARBEQUE LUNCH



Tickets: Adults \$8 Students \$5 Under 5 Free

Entry Fee \$20 per car - includes park fee & lunch.

Chance for trophy.

Hofwyl Plantation For more info, call 912-996-0461



Fun times at previous car shows



Join us for some fun at our car show!

All About the Family

To Whom Much is Given

By

S.T. Lanter



Gratz Cohen watercolor from his days as a cadet at the Georgia Military Institute, ca. 1862. The Georgia Military Institute in Marietta, Ga. burned by General Sherman's troops in November 1864 and never rebuilt. The original portrait hangs in the Ladies Parlor of the Hofwyl House. Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation State Historic Site.

“To whom much is given much will be required,” says the Book of Luke, chapter 12 verse 48. Gratz Cohen was the child of wealth and privilege, the eldest child and only son of Solomon and Miriam Gratz Cohen of Savannah born November 3, 1844. The Cohen’s were cosmopolitan, observant Jews, totally assimilated in the upper tier of Savannah society. Solomon was a successful attorney, merchant, politician, and real estate investor. Miriam came from the wealthy, well connected Gratz family of Philadelphia. Both were ardent Confederates who approved of the ‘peculiar institution’ of slavery. The family owned 15-20 slaves, a large number for an urban family.

His parents exposed him to books, learning and a good education in the classics. From an early age Gratz displayed intelligence and great promise. As a broken-hearted Solomon wrote after Gratz’s death:

He was so pure – so talented – so certain to benefit his race – so gifted that he must have been a shining light among men, ... our pride and hope are crushed. It was he who was to be our friend, our advisor and to whom all things were to have been committed – one on whom we could lean in the decline of life, and to whom, when death was near, we could have committed the care of his sisters.

Sixteen-year-old Gratz always an avid follower of politics and current events wrote his parents, during a visit with Great-Aunt Rebecca Gratz in Philadelphia in the aftermath of the pivotal 1860 election:

The State of the country fills everyone here with gloom. I hope the South will calmly and deliberately [secede], I think it is the Duty of every Southern State to leave a Union which is a union but in name

Two weeks later he again wrote home:

Philadelphia Month of treason, day of sorrow, Year of disunion Dec 7th 1860 [my emphasis]. *You can well imagine how happy I feel seated in a large, handsome parlor with dear Aunt Becky, ... We are all in great trouble about the result of the election. Thank heavens I am with those entirely opposed to Lincoln.*

In June 1861, Gratz Cohen enlisted for 90 days in the hastily recruited “Savannah Artillery” the garrison for Fort Pulaski. Cohen arrived at the brick bastion (twelve miles from Savannah) on a hot June day and immediately realized the truth to the ancient military maxim of “hurry-up-and-wait.” The only commodity the new soldiers possessed in abundance was enthusiasm, anything else was in short supply as his quickly dashed off letter makes clear.

I arrived here safely about noon and am now sitting on a carpet bag trying to write a few lines. All is confusion, ... Please send me a camp bed, as nearly everyone here is provided with one. I was not able to get a flannel shirt so please send me ... one....

Life at Fort Pulaski soon transitioned from excitement over the prospect of imminent action against a hated foe to dull routine. Despite his growing wisdom and new-found experience of the wider world—some things would remain the same, he was still a young man sending his dirty clothes home to Mama.

There will be a champagne basket with soiled clothes on board the boat this evening, Love to all.

Gratz's enlistment expired in early September. He still desired to help in the fight and using family connections secured a commission as a Aide-de-Camp with the rank of Captain in Georgia State Troops stationed at Camp Harrison--near where Abercorn and Middleground Roads in suburban Savannah now meet (not far from present day Hunter Army Airfield).



Gratz Cohen, Captain CSA, KIA March 19, 1865 Bentonville, NC. This image is from a 'Carte de Visite' taken in a Savannah Photo studio ca. 1862. Etiquette required the presentation of visitation cards on formal society visits. The three bars of his rank as a captain are just visible on his coat collar, as a staff officer the sash about his waist was red silk. Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation State Historic Site.

Gratz was strong of mind and intellect but frail in body. His life-long ill health soon afflicted him in the spring of 1862 forcing him to resign his captain's commission for medical reasons, after eight months service with Georgia State troops. Gratz recovered from the undisclosed medical issue and attempted to re-enlist but army doctors again rejected him for active service. In the late spring he enrolled at the Georgia Military Institute (GMI) in Marietta, Ga. But once again the 'bogey' of ill health ran him down. He resigned and went home to Savannah. Ironically, after successfully resisting conscription.

In the autumn of 1862, he enrolled at the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, graduating in May 1864. Gratz returned to Savannah that summer, writing a now lost novel: *Edith Brandon*.

The enemy have invaded my home, and I must aid in its defense. If I can't stand, I will kneel and fire my rifle.

Gratz's recall to Confederate service was effective September 16, 1864, for assignment as an unpaid volunteer on the staff of Col. George P. Harrison's Brigade. He was part of the fighting retreat from Savannah. On Christmas Eve 1864, a tired and dispirited Gratz, worried about his parents and sisters, wrote his favorite Aunt Emma Mordecai:

I need some consolation, dear Aunt Emma, this dreary Christmas eve, so I shall write you ... the last news I have of home is that the Yankees entered the city while a portion of Wheeler's command [Joseph Wheeler's Cavalry--Confederate] [drunk?] with liquor & left behind was [undecipherable word; walking?] the street & breaking into houses. All of our family are in the city. What fate awaits them God alone knows.

This winter, I am a fugitive with no home but the camp in which I shall remain as long as my health permit. ... [W]rite me often dear Aunt for my confidence in your love is all I possess in the world today.

I have brought much suffering on me by this mode of life & my gut gives me constant pain, he wrote in his last letter to 'Aunt Emma.' His health's decline soon came to the attention of the regimental surgeon who informed the eager young man that:

You are too sick, Mr. Cohen; you cannot endure the fatigue of this battle.

Despite his frail health Gratz consistently placed himself where the action was the fiercest.

His luck ran out on the afternoon of March 19, 1865, Gratz returned from a scout and reported his findings to Col. Harrison. Observing the fight, as an unknown author informed Aunt Emma, he died tragically, killed in a friendly fire incident, for he:

was shot & [the bullet] entering the back of the head it is supposed in the confusion of battle it was our own people so Mr. O'Driscoll (later the husband of Gratz's sister Belle) said for he added Gratz was facing the enemy.

Frank O'Driscoll and an unknown soldier (possibly James Dent) hurriedly buried Gratz's body on the field where he fell. Solomon and Miriam disinterred Gratz's body in 1866 and reburied his remains in the family plot at Laurel Grove Cemetery. His epitaph inscribed on his damaged tombstone reads: "In memory of Gratz Cohen the only son of Solomon and Miriam Gratz Cohen who was killed at the Battle of Bentonville, N.C. on the 19th day of March 1865 aged 20 years, 4 months and 16 days."



December 4th & 5th
Christmas Program
Save the Date!

