



Volume #12

Summer 2022

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.

Date	Program	Time
June 11, 2022	Mighty Oaks Program	10:00 a. m.
June 13-16, 2022	Junior Ranger Camp	8:30 a.m.– 12:30 p.m.
June 27-30, 2022	Junior Ranger Camp	8:30a.m. - 12:30 p. m.
May 3-31, 2022 Plein Air Paintings on Exhibit at the Horton Gallery in the Brunswick Hospital Campus of SE Health System		
June 1-July 31, 2022 Plein Air Paintings on Exhibit at the McIntosh Art Association in Darien		
August 1-31, 2022 Plein Air Paintings on Exhibit at the Golden Isles Welcome Center on St. Simons Island, GA		
September PleinAir Paintings return to Hofwyl for exhibit in the auditorium		



New for 2022

**Mighty Oaks From Tiny Acorns Grow:
Hofwyl's Famous Trees**

Date

Time

June 11, 2022

10:00 a.m.

This will be an outdoor hike. Our site manager will show the visitors the live oaks in various stages of development. Information on the oaks importance and uses will be discussed. Imagine all the hurricanes the oaks have seen and lived through. Please call the office to register for this event (912-2647333). The informational walk will take about an hour. Wear comfortable shoes and bring insect repellent.

How to Become a Junior Ranger

Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites are now offering free Site-Specific Junior Ranger Activity books and badges at 59 different parks and historic sites. Guests of any age can receive a badge and become a certified Junior Ranger. Inside each book there are fun and exciting missions to complete to experience nature first-hand, explore Georgia's fascinating history and enjoy outdoor recreational activities. Junior Rangers can learn about alligators in South Georgia, about forts along the coast, or about bears and hemlock trees in North Georgia. Some pages are specific about a site's history or features found only on that park. Junior Rangers can work through the activity requirements on their own or with an adult helper.

How do I get a book?

Pick up a site-specific book by visiting any park or historic site. Junior Rangers are encouraged to complete the book as they explore and learn while visiting each different park setting.

How can I get my reward and be sworn in as an official Junior Ranger?

If you have completed your book and would like to receive your free badge and have a park ranger swear you in, stop by the park office, museum, or visitor center and ask for a ranger to issue that site's official Junior Ranger pledge and badge.

Junior Rangers can continue earning additional rewards by participating in other outdoor activities. Junior Rangers can earn up to five other embroidery stickers once they complete activities related to park experiences. To earn additional reward stickers, complete each outdoor activity 5 times and then take the page to a ranger to collect your reward for these categories:

- Outdoor Fun: Play in the dirt or on a playground, golf, mini golf, disc golf, play tag or hide and seek, build a fort, fly a kite, or dance with the wind.
- Wet Zone: Fish, swim, canoe, kayak, paddle board, aqua cycle, pedal boat, ride in a boat, or creek walk.
- Blaze a Trail: hike, bike, ride a horse, or walk your dog.
- Kids Care: Want to help a ranger? Attend a volunteer day at a park. You could be asked to pick up trash, remove invasive plants, stain picnic tables, plant trees or help with trails.

Right here at Hofwyl-Broadfield Historic Site we will be having Junior Ranger Camps this Summer: Cost \$50 or \$45 for those that register early. To register call the office at 912-264-7333.

Camp for ages 6-8 will be June 13-16, 2022 from 8:30a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Camp for ages 9-12 will be June 27-30, 2022 from 8:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.



Meet Allie Ellis Our New Interpretive Ranger

She was born in Savannah, GA and raised in McIntosh County, but you won't guess that by her accent. From 2007– 2016 she was out west. She graduated from Colorado Mesa University in 2016 and moved back home soon after that. Her career with DNR started when she took a part-time job at Fort King George in 2017. She fell in love with the job and developed a passion for interpreting this area's history and culture. Her position became fulltime there, and then she transferred to Hofwyl Broadfield when Ranger Andy retired last Fall.

She met her husband, Michael through work. He was a ranger at Fort McAllister when they met. He took her position at Ft. King George when she moved to Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation. They enjoy table games and spoiling their dog named Kitty. Whenever they have a chance to get away for a weekend they like to visit historical sites, like St. Augustine or Charleston.

She enjoys a lot of things about the job. It's a fun challenge to take historic information, which can at times be rather complicated, and descramble it into an interesting and digestible story for members of the general public, who may have been disinterested in the topic beforehand. It is even better when you say something that makes a kid's eyes light up and the gears in their brain start turning, and you can tell that they're curious enough to keep doing their own learning even after they've left your program. She also likes the trees and trails right outside her door for peace and comfort after the occasional long tedious day in the office.

Albert Fendig's 10th Annual Plein Air Event



**Family
Friends &
Politicians**

2022

Enjoyed By
All

Best Wishes Albert



Until Next Year.....



The Affair Opposite Black Rock

By S.T. Lanter

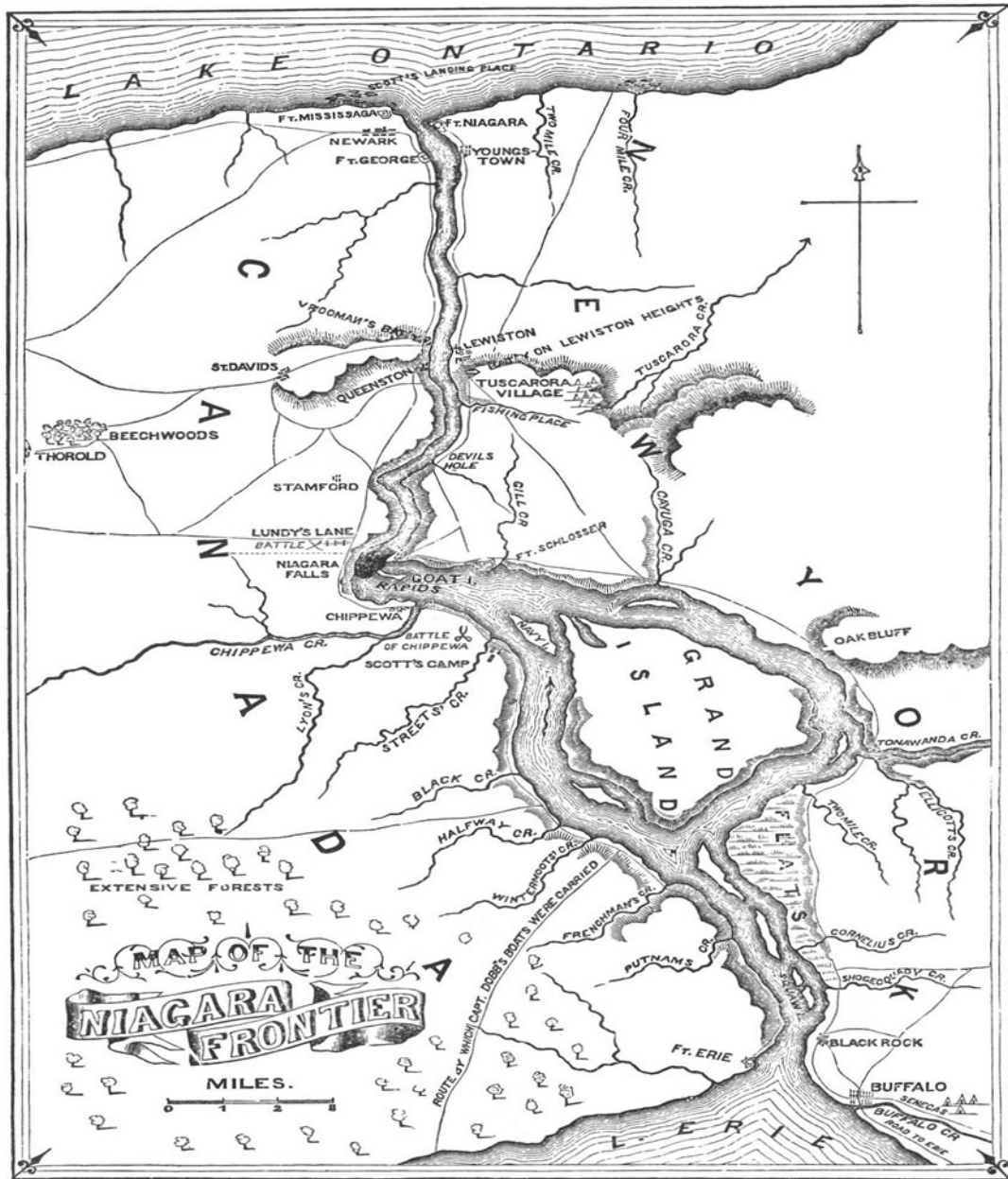


Figure 1 A contemporary map of the Niagara Frontier during the War of 1812. Midshipman William H. Brailsford USN was part of the US Navy contingent that set out from Black Rock to launch the November 28, 1812 preliminary attack for the invasion of Canada planned for Chippewa Creek. Brailsford and his fellow sailors would have set out from the 'Navy Yard' at the mouth of the Scajaquada Creek (under the letter K), on the lower right of the map, landing between Frenchman's and Putnam's Creeks.

The night of November 28, 1812 was cold, blustery, and moonless. In the dark, 21 wooden boats, each capable of transporting 40 men, with oarlocks wrapped in cloth to deaden the sound, moved swiftly downstream from Black Rock Navy Yard. The three-mile-long pull was eased by the Niagara River current rushing headlong to the falls 33 miles downstream.

The assault was a joint Army/Navy operation. Lt. Samuel Angus, a quarrelsome and rough character, led ten boats containing 70 sailors, and 150 soldiers commanded by Captain William King of the 13th US Infantry Regiment. Brigadier General Alexander Smyth's plan was two pronged. Angus and King were to land south of Frenchman's Creek and destroy the British garrison in a fortified 'Red House' and spike several field guns located 2 and a half miles downstream from Ft. Erie. A second group of eleven boats, led by Lieutenant Colonel Boerstler was to destroy a strategic bridge over Frenchman's Creek thus preventing the arrival of British reinforcements from Fort Erie against the main landing at Chippewa Creek. If successful the preliminary assault would ease the way for Smyth's invasion of Canada on the 29th, and erase the humiliation of the defeat at Queenston Heights, caused by Smyth's intransigence six weeks earlier. Both groups left Black Rock at 2 a.m.



Figure 2 An illustration of a typical amphibious assault during the War of 1812. This is a painting of the Battle of Queenston Heights on October 13, 1812 prior to the action at Frenchman's Creek, Brailsford would have crossed the Niagara River in a similar fashion.

The British forewarned were ready and waiting. The dark night erupted with gunfire. Round shot from many smoothbore muskets and grapeshot from the two field guns killed and wounded many men in the heavy, slow moving, wooden boats, including 19-year-old Midshipman William H. Brailsford. As Lt. Angus wrote in his official report to the Secretary of the Navy:

*I had not got more than three fourths of the way across, before the British discovered us, and opened a severe fire from two Field Pieces and a sharp well directed fire of Musquetry [sic] from about two hundred & fifty men finding **the boats were dropping fast** [my emphasis] and our men getting wounded, determined me to make a desperate push...*

I immediately jumped in the water desiring my officers and Sailors to follow me, In which I was not only Gallantly but desperately assisted, by ... about twenty-one of my brave [sailors] I ordered them to charge with their Pikes, they rushed up the Hill and routed the enemy in all directions, spiked the field Pieces, and run the Casson [caisson] in the water.

...out of ten Boats that Started ... four crews amounting in all to about thirty-five Seaman and about forty or fifty soldiers only landed.

Angus' sailors armed with cutlasses, pikes, and boarding axes; the US Infantry soldiers with single shot muskets bayonets fixed charged into the maelstrom. The whole affair was "... infamous butchery in a ridiculous attempt..." The fight was vicious, brutal, hand-to-hand, and mercifully short. The sailors and soldiers drove the British from the field, spiked the field guns and burned the 'Red House.' But with the British regrouped and counterattacking soon began a retreat to the boats.

Lt. Angus was the last man to leave:

by [the] ... time I ... got to the waters edge. ... I [had to rush] ... into the Water, [to get into] ... the only remaining boat which had shoved off by going beyond my depth in the water.

Lt. Col. Boerstler's group fared no better. Col. Boerstler was only able to land seven of his eleven boats. He found the bridge but discovered that all the tools necessary to destroy the bridge were in the four boats that didn't land. His men tore up the planks on the decking of the bridge which delayed the British only momentarily. In all Lt. Angus, Capt. King and Lt. Col. Boerstler suffered: 24 killed, 55 wounded and 39 missing. The British lost: 13 killed, 44 wounded and 34 missing. To the British the sharp fight was the Battle of Frenchman's Creek. But to contemporary Americans it was long known as 'the Affair Opposite Black Rock.'

William H. Brailsford, the second son of William Brailsford and Maria Heyward Brailsford was born in Charleston, S.C. in 1792. The elder Brailsford began a family tradition of naval service by serving in the short-lived South Carolina Navy on the frigate *South Carolina* during the American Revolution. His son, William, and cousin Morton Brailsford served during the War of 1812. Lieutenant Morton Brailsford along with 20 crewmen drowned when the *USS Alligator* sank during a storm in Port Royal Sound, S.C. in July of 1814.

In the age of primogeniture, custom required the Elder Brailsford name his first-born son Samuel (killed in a duel), the inheritor of the family estate. The father also had and to procure a commission in the military for the second-born son William. In 1807, William Brailsford wrote his relative, Thomas Spalding, then serving in the US Congress, asking for assistance in obtaining a naval commission for his son, William H. Brailsford. William, at age 17 or 18, was commissioned as a Midshipman, December 1, 1809 serving on board the *USS John Adams*. With commencement of the War of 1812 in June, the *Adams* laid up in New York harbor undergoing repairs and the US Atlantic fleet, blockaded in harbor by the Royal Navy, Brailsford, was transferred to Sacketts Harbor, New York, at the eastern end of Lake Ontario in late summer 1812.

Sacketts Harbor was the main base of operations in the major active theater of operations—the Great Lakes—where the war would be won or lost. In the summer and fall of 1812, the situation on the lakes was still in doubt. Overly optimistic plans were drawn to invade and capture Canada, which was believed would fall like a ripe fruit into American hands thus winning the war. Both sides engaged in a fierce naval arms race. Commodore Isaac Chauncey (he was actually a Captain, Commodore being but an honorary title denoting an officer in command of more than one ship or installation) commanded naval operations on Lake Ontario, including the navy yards at Sacketts Harbor and Black Rock, New York.

Brailsford was transferred to this critical area of conflict to crew the *USS Madison* under construction at Sacketts Harbor. The *Madison* was not complete and would not be completed for several months when Brailsford arrived. Commodore Chauncey transferred a large number of excess sailors—including Brailsford—to Black Rock Navy Yard at the eastern end of Lake Erie near ‘*Buffaloe*,’ to the control of the US Army as assault troops on the Niagara Frontier.

The situation at Black Rock that 19-year-old Brailsford found was grim in the aftermath of the bungled invasion of Canada at Queenston Heights, October 13. Brailsford’s commanding officer, Brigadier General Alexander Smyth, a regular U.S. Army officer,

whose refusal to follow Militia Major General Stephen Van Rensselaer's orders during the battle at Queenston Heights led to the initial successful assault being thrown back into the Niagara River and a thousand men lost. Morale was low, the troops on the verge of mutiny, militia soldiers were refusing to leave their home states to fight in a foreign adventure.

General Smyth, succeeding Van Rensselaer as commander, bragged loud and long about how successful his upcoming assault on the Canadian shore at Frenchman's Creek would be. So loud in fact the enemy was warned and waiting. The sailors and soldiers failed, though giving their all, once again, to move from the shores of the lakes due to bad senior leadership, inexperience, incompetent quartermasters, poor security, and just plain bad luck.

However, in his report to Secretary of the Navy, the "hard-drinking" Paul Hamilton, Angus praised his heroic sailors:

I beg leave to mention that S[ailing]. M[asters]. Carter, Sisson and Midshipn Brailsford [who] were wounded in the boats, and I am sure that could they have landed they would have done their duty... permit [me]... to recommend [them] to Your Notice.



The next day General Smyth made a show of continuing the invasion. As Lt. Angus acerbically comments in his report:

Genl Smyth made a false movement kept his men embarked all day and disembarked them in the evening, for no evident reason ... it surprised me but he is best acquainted with his own reasons.

No follow up assault ever occurred. Smyth, after numerous threats to his life from his dispirited ‘troops,’ went on leave and never returned. But he did not escape all censure. Militia Major General Peter B. Porter, one of the ‘war hawks,’ who distinguished himself on the Niagara Frontier, called Smyth a coward. The two men fought a duel December 12, 1812. A historian later drily commented that “*unfortunately both missed.*”

How serious were Midshipman Brailsford’s wounds is not known. But in a January 1813 letter to his adoptive father Daniel Stevens, Acting Lieutenant Thomas Holdup, also wounded in the action, says “...*Lt. Angus desires his respects [be sent]—so does Dudley & Brailsford.*” Apparently Brailsford recovered rapidly.

In July 1813, Midshipman Brailsford was posted to the newly launched *USS General Pike* on Lake Ontario. On September 28, 1813, the two fleets met in York Bay (modern day Toronto) and in an indecisive but hard-fought action the *General Pike* suffered heavy damage with twenty men killed and wounded. Midshipman Brailsford was wounded.

Recovered, again, Brailsford returned to duty as Midshipman on *USS Superior* and on November 30, 1814, as ‘Acting Master (Captain)’ of the *USS Sylph*, until the end of hostilities in 1815. In summer 1816, Lt. Brailsford requested a three-month furlough, explaining that he had not had leave since 1809 and had important business to attend to. The leave was granted. What the important business was is unknown—family lore says that he was suffering the lingering effects of his war wounds. He died at Broadfield March 26, 1817. *The Savannah Republican* printed his obituary April 3, 1817:

Died, suddenly, at Darien, (Ga.) on the 26th ult. (March 26, 1817) Lieutenant William H. Brailsford, of the United States Navy... his devotion to the cause [of] his country ..., led him to volunteer his services on Lake Ontario. In that arduous service, he continued, under the immediate command of Commodore Chauncey, until the close of the war. At the peace he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and transferred to the Independence, ... , in which ship he sailed to the Mediterranean.



10th Anniversary Albert Fendig Plein Air

Art Collection on Display at the Horton Gallery

Southeast Georgia Health System

Brunswick Campus May 3-31, 2022

**During June and July the paintings will be at the McIntosh Art
Association (Old Jail), 404 North Way, Darien, GA**

**In August the traveling show will go to Golden Isles Welcome Center
on St. Simons Island.**

**Afterwards all remaining paintings will go back to Hofwyl to be hung
in the auditorium for public viewing.**

**All paintings are for sale through So Go Gallery at 912-230-1042
unless otherwise indicated.**

For more information contact George Netherton 678-778-8889.

To Do List Summer 2022

1. Explore Georgia's Historic Sites

*2. Help a child become a Junior
Ranger*

*3. Sign up a child for the Hofwyl-
Broadfield Jr. Ranger Camp*

*4. Meet Allie Ellis our new Hofwyl-
Broadfield Plantation ranger.*

5. Enjoy your Summer