



Photo by Troup Nightingale

Volume # 10

Winter 2021–2022

Friends of Hofwyl–Broadfield Plantation Newsletter

Visiting and Programming

Currently we are open Wednesday–Sunday 9-5 with tours of the plantation house available at the top of every hour. Beginning on January 4th, the historic site will be open Tuesday-Sunday. 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.

December 3rd & 4th from 6-9 p.m. Christmas at Hofwyl-Broadfield

January 23, 2022 at 2:00 Camellias in our Southern Gardens

**Hofwyl–Broadfield
Plantation**
State Historic Site



1901			
NAME.	RESIDENCE.	ARRIVAL.	DEPARTURE.
Mr. J. Rogers	Savannah Ga	March 6 th	March 11 th 1901
Wm. South	New York	March 15 th	March 15 th 1901
Montgomery Strong	New York	March 15 th	March 15 th 1901
Wm. South	Jekyll Island.	"	"
Frank D. Ayer	Brunswick Ga	"	"
Wm. South	Jekyll Island	"	"
W. W. Mackall	Savannah Ga	March 15 th	March 18 th 1901
St. Munson	Savannah Ga	March 15 th	March 15 th 1901
John M. C. Cheson	Savannah Georgia	March 15 th	March 20 th 1901
Annie F. Mackall.	Savannah Florida	March 15 th	March 20 th 1901
Marion Shearson	New York	March 15 th	March 20 th 1901

The Guest Book provided by Bill Giles, site manager

These notable men and women will be discussed in the following article. The above document is a part of the collection at the Hofwyl- Broadfield Historic Site.



Early 20th century men's fashion.

A Day in March at the Dent's House

By Mason Stewart

Today, when people visit Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation, they sometimes comment on the solitude and remoteness of its location. Situated on a now little used highway about half-way between Brunswick and Darien, the old Brailsford, Troup, Dent homestead seems miles away from everywhere. Therefore, people are surprised to find out that, between its busy antebellum days as a large rice plantation and its now quiet picturesque days as a scenic Georgia Historic Park, remote Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation was also, from time to time, one of the high society hot spots on the Georgia coast.

Until his death in 1913, James Dent and his small family regularly played host to some of the most notable personalities and power brokers of the early 20th century. Because of the plantation's proximity (via the inter-coastal waterway) to the nearby exclusive Jekyll Island Club, Hofwyl-Broadfield was a favorite site for, not only popular weekend hunting excursions and social soirees, but also perhaps for important and private business meetings as well.

While famous names like DuPont, as in Pierre, or Mitchel, as in Margaret frequently graced the faded pages of the plantation's registry, other equally famous names from the powerful and exclusive Jekyll Island club also show up. They usually--but not always--appear between the club season months of January through March.

The date of March 15th, 1901, for instance, is a good example of Jekyll Island Club era visitations. On that date, the Hofwyl-Broadfield guest registry (photo included on page prior to article) records the following visitors to the plantation:

Edwin Gould, millionaire member of the Jekyll Island Club whose family made a fortune investing in railroads and Wall Street. Curiously, Edwin Gould is listed twice on the 15th, once giving his address as Jekyll Island, and again giving his address as New York. So, he may have had his young son, Edwin Gould Jr. with him. Tragically, young Eddie Jr. was killed several years later in a tragic hunting accident while visiting Jekyll.

Montgomery Strong, real estate investor visiting the Gould's on Jekyll.

William Struthers, millionaire member of the Jekyll Island Club from Philadelphia whose family made their fortune in marble and stone.

Notice Jessie Shearson of Savannah and Marion Shearson of New York. I'm not exactly sure who they are, but Marion was listed as a bride's maid at an 1896 railroad tycoon's son's wedding in Chicago. I believe that she is part of the Shearson family, name associated with Shearson Lehman investment fame.

W.W. Mackall and his wife from Savannah. He is the President of the Georgia Historical Society and also the Son of Confederate General William W. Mackall.

Lastly, Frank D. Aikin from Brunswick. At the time he was a wealthy owner of a Brunswick ship brokerage firm and big promoter of the city's future. He was later President of the Brunswick Bank and Trust Company.

There is currently no record available on why these powerful and wealthy business tycoons all happened to visit Hofwyl-Broadfield plantation on that day in March, but—whatever the reason—it must have been a very interesting weekend for the Dent's.

Along with the above-mentioned Jekyll Island Club power brokers frequently visiting Hofwyl-Broadfield, the Dent's, especially Miriam and Ophelia, were often feted as guests of the Maurice's and Albrights at their private club cottages on Jekyll.

So, far from being the isolated lonely place on a forgotten backwater, Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation may have been on the "A-list" of trendy places for people "in the know" to visit during the early part of the 20th century.

We are so excited!

The Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation Cookbook is ready just in time for the holidays!

It is a very special addition to the gift shop. The book is so much more than a cookbook, it is a history book. It describes the methods for preserving meats before refrigeration, contains recipes for spirits, recipes for cleaning supplies, and medical advice! Get yours, as they will be going fast!

Meals & Memories of Hofwyl Plantation



Friends of Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation
Brunswick, Georgia

Bird Watching on the Georgia Colonial Trail

Hofwyl–Broadfield Plantation

Georgia's Colonial Coast Birding Trail offers birders of all skill levels the opportunity to catch a glimpse of a variety of birds. More than 300 species have been seen on the trail, including painted buntings, bald eagles, and wood storks!

SPECIALTIES: Wood stork, bald eagle, osprey, glossy ibis, painted bunting, yellow-throated warbler.

TIPS: Look for warblers during spring and fall migrations, northern parulas and yellow-throated warblers in spring and summer, and clapper rails and marsh wrens in the marshes throughout the year. Ospreys are common in spring and summer.

For additional information, visit our website:

<https://georgiabirdingtrails.com/hofwyl-broadfield-plantation-state-historic-site>

You may pick up information about the Coastal Georgia Birding Trail and a bird checklist in the Hofwyl–Broadfield Plantation site office.





Home Sweet Home

Miss Ophelia's Oldsmobile Cutlass is back home from the shop. Faye Cowart (left), Bill Giles (in car), and Gordon Strother (right) welcome "her" home. The garage was empty for a while as the Friends of Howfyl and their friends are preserving this beauty to her former grandeur. Thanks are in order to Friends of Coastal GA History for a sizable donation that got us going. We also appreciate the work of Richard Carrasquillo of the Tin Lizzies. Also, spending time, energy, and expertise our thanks to Bill Hill, Freddie Merritt, and Ralph Babb. In addition there were countless people, like the newsletter editor, that happily contributed a small amount to get this historic car roadworthy again. It was unveiled to the public at the Ophelia's Challenge Car Show which was held on October 16th.

What a beautiful day we had on October 16, 2021 for the Ophelia's Classic Car Challenge. Approximately 50 classic cars from all over the southeast registered to participate.



The 2021 Ophelia's Classic Car Challenge

Winners are:

1st place: Doug Bean, 1969 Mercury Cyclone, Classic Coastal Cruisers

2nd place: Reggie Griner, 1949 Mercury, 2 door coup

3rd place: Dan Duffay, 1970 Chevy, Chevelle SS

4th place: Emried Griner, 1966 Ford, 7 Litre

Peoples' Choice: Scott Shollenberger, 2020 Chevy Corvette

Most Original: Paul Zettek, 1952 GMC, Korean War Supply Truck

Oct 16, 2021



Photos by Troup Nightingale

A Hofwyl-Broadfield Celebration

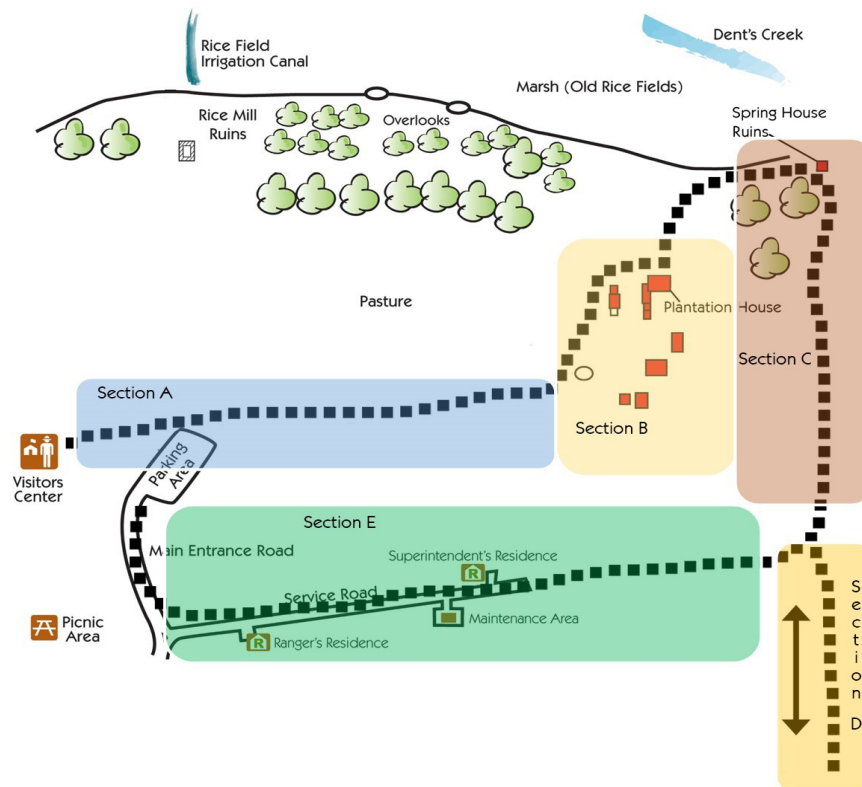
December 3rd and 4th



6:00 p.m. until 9 p.m.

Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for youth, 6-17, Children 5 and under free

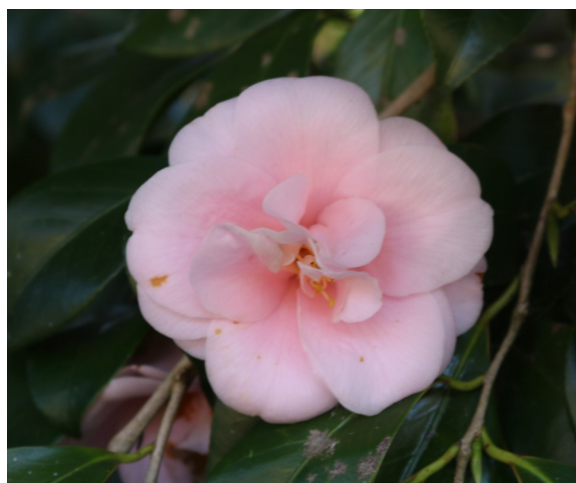
Visitors will walk through centuries old live oaks and be treated to a guided tour of the 1850's plantation house specially decorated for Christmas. Several period dressed interpreters will share stories of the plantation's past. History buffs will enjoy Company A, 26th Georgia Volunteer Infantry and other units as they re-enact a pre-Civil War muster of the Glynn County Guards and the Brunswick Rifles Militia Units. There will be cannon and musket firings as well as demonstrations of camp life. After touring the house, enjoy hot Wassail (a spiced Christmas punch) prepared over an open fire in an authentic cast iron pot.



The weather has finally cooled off, so how about a hike at the Hofwyl— Broadfield Historic site's tree and plant identification trail !

The trees are marked for you with metal markers. Go by the office and pick up the map and the information folder. Over 30 varieties of trees are marked including: Live Oak, Water Oak, Sweet Gum, Southern Magnolia, Sago Palm, Cabbage Palm, Bald Cypress to name a few. Get out of your house and enjoy nature. Plan to tour the interior of the plantation house on the hour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, and beginning in January 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.

Master Gardener, Linda Hlozansky Presents:
Camellias in our Southern Gardens
January 23rd at 2:00 p.m. at the auditorium.



The Hofwyl–Broadfield historic site is included on Georgia's Camellia Trail. We have some very old Camellias and some that are only found here. The presentation will cover the types of Camellias, uses in the landscape, planting, fertilizing, pruning, maintaining, and recognizing/solving problems in our Camellias. Weather permitting, we will demonstrate planting a young tree and visit the garden to solve the mystery of where that hybridized Camellia named "Miss Ophelia Dent" is located. The presentation is available with regular park admission of \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors.

Andy Retires!



Bill and Stephanie Giles hosted Andy Beckman at a dinner to honor his service. He retired this fall from his position as an interpretive agent DNR. He has served Hofwyl–Broadfield Plantation since 1990. A native of Indiana, he has returned home to Wabash, IN, moving to a house on the very street where he grew up. The Friends of Hofwyl, with permission from the artist, gave him an oil painting of the historic house that was the location of his years of work. Below is his last official tour through the house. Best Wishes from the Friends of Hofwyl!

