

REDCLIFFE PLANTATION
181 REDCLIFFE RD
BEECH ISLAND, SC 29842
(803) 827-1473

UPCOMING EVENTS
AT REDCLIFFE

Behind the Scenes
April 2nd 4:30 p.m.

reservations now open

Music in the Magnolia
Sat, May 7th-
more details next
month

For more information on these
programs please contact the
park.

Park Staff

Park Manager
Joy Raintree

Park Interpreter
Elizabeth Laney

Park Technician
Doug Kratz

Asst. Park Ranger
Theresa Hipps

Think About This!

Most museums exhibit only 2-4 % of their collection at a time. That means 96-98% of the "stuff" is in storage!

Not Redcliffe. Visitors see about 65% of our entire collection on display!!!

Translation: you get more for your money by visiting us 😊

Redcliffe Southern Times

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 9

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The Women Behind the Scandal

From the first I had found all of these young ladies extremely affectionate, lavish of their kisses and embraces, professing great love for me, and not only permitting but promptly responding to every species of dalliance which circumstances brought about between us... And for two years I gave way to the most wanton indulgences.

If you've read James Henry Hammond's diaries, taken a tour of Redcliffe or the Hampton-Preston Mansion in Columbia, or read Hammond's Wikipedia entry then you know how he documented his two year molestation of his wife Catherine's teenage nieces. The ending to the story is always the same "...and none of the girls ever married." No one actually tells the story of who these young women were and what their lives were like following the scandal. Here then are the stories of Harriet, Catherine (Kate), Ann and Caroline Hampton.

Harriet Flud Hampton

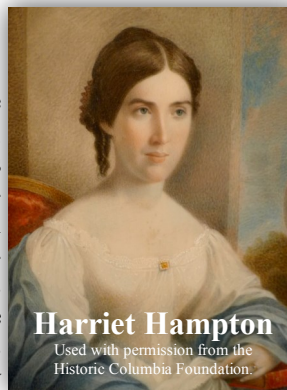
The eldest of the sisters, whom Hammond described as "the fresh but blooming woman nearly 19," Harriet died just four years after the scandal was made known. She was just 25 years old.

After all the fuss made no man who valued his standing could marry one of the Hampton girls.

Ann Hampton

When their father (Wade Hampton II) died in 1858, he left Ann and her sisters Kate and Caroline Millwood Plantation, several miles outside of Columbia, SC. The home was burned in 1865, but the sisters lived in various dwellings on the property for the next forty years.

Ann, too, never married. When she passed away in 1914 she left all of her property, including Millwood, to her brothers' children.



Harriet Hampton
Used with permission from the
Historic Columbia Foundation.



Kate Hampton
Used with permission from the
Historic Columbia Foundation.

Caroline Hampton

The youngest of the sisters, Caroline, lived with her two elder sisters until her death in 1903.

Catherine "Kate" Hampton

The second eldest of the four sisters, Kate did remain unmarried and dedicated her life to charitable works. When she passed away in 1916, her obituary described her as follows: "Miss Hampton was in her youth a great beauty, widely famed as a belle of the Old South, and in girlhood as well as in more advanced years she was a tireless, tactful and generous charity worker... She breathed a fine and delicate courtesy, a cordial kindness that never failed and the fragrance of her cloistered but not

idle life has been for many years a potent influence for good among all those privileged to enjoy her acquaintance."



Cestrum Jessamine - Platanus acerifolia

Don't worry Harry, Spring is on it's way!
March 23, 1893, Harry Hammond wrote to his daughter Katharine "these coldish damp gray days make one feel dull...the rye and now and then a clump of Jessamines with some shivering blooms of peach and pear are the only foreshadowings of spring except Winfield's new straw hat, which I stumbled over just now by Milly's house."

Columbia Ruins

In anticipation of becoming Governor of South Carolina in 1840, James Henry Hammond built a beautiful home at the corner of Bull St. and Blanding St. in Columbia, SC. The most significant feature of the home were the three story columns that surrounded the home on every side. Hammond abandoned the home following the scandal regarding his molestation of the Hampton girls. The home was sold to a Thomas Clarkson, who owned the home when it was burned by Sherman's forces in 1865. This postcard, showing the ruins of the home following the Civil War, are currently in the collection of the University of South Carolina's Online Digital Archives.

Preservation Note - Cracked Glass



Which of the culprits (left) are responsible for this new break in a pane of glass in one of the Library windows? Send your guess to redcliffe@scprt.com.