

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

UPCOMING EVENTS
AT REDCLIFFE

Mansion Decorated for
Holidays

Dec 1 - Jan 2

A Holiday Evening at Redcliffe:

Food & Drink

through the Years

Sat, Dec 17 5pm - 7pm

\$10/ Adults, \$7.50/SC Seniors & Ages 6-16

First Day Hike

January 1 @ 2:00 pm

FREE - Good Family Event

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

DID YOU KNOW?

The origin of the word "Xmas" used throughout Mamie's letter is Greek and is hundreds of years old.

X represents the Greek letter "chi" which is the first letter in the word Χριστός which means "Christ."

Redcliffe Southern Times

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Redcliffe Holiday Top 10



#1

John Shaw Billings' ~1905 Letter to Santa
Dear Father - Will you tell Santa Claws to send me a football... a tiper riter for rany days, etc.



Christmas Goat Cart 1916

#2

Christmas & Emancipation, 1863
"[We] had a big tree that Christmas. Everybody in Beech Is. was invited and got presents. I did not know till long afterwards how uneasy my Mother was. Lincoln had issued a proclamation setting all the negroes free..."

#3



Skeeter's First Christmas, 1927

Christmas Holydays, 1850s

#5 At Christmas a holyday of three or four days is given [to the slaves] commencing on Christmas day...

#6

Christmas Barbecue - On [Christmas] day, if not a Sunday, a barbecue is given, beef or mutton & pork, coffee & bread being bountifully provided.

James H. Hammond's 1863 Christmas Message
Christmas such as it is. It used to be Christmas this day. The weather has been finer, clear, crisper cold... but no smiling faces & merry hearts... very dull.

James H. Hammond's 1850 Christmas Message
MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, especially to my dear, dear children for whom alone I live or desire to live and MANY, MANY HAPPY NEW YEARS...



One year when it snowed at Redcliffe... (early 1970's)

#9

A Jazz Christmas
Dec 24, 1925 - Came home & got ready for the dance. James gave the Jazz band \$20.00. 105 guests on hand. EVERYBODY HAD A GLORIOUS TIME.

#10

Remembering Mamie Jackson & the Christmas of 1950

In December 1950, Mamie Jackson began a letter thanking her employers John & Frederica Billings for the X-mas gift they had sent to her. She continued by saying that she had suffered a very bad heart attack after their return to New York. *I don't think xmas will mean so much to me this year as you know if you are not fealing [sic] good you can't enjoy very much. We are having cold weather here and have been every since you all left for New York... Thank you all again for the present. Merry X-mas and a happy new year.*



Last minute Holiday shopping?

Purchase one of these nifty gifts during your next visit!



Historic toys, candies, tea, books, shirts, local honey & more!

Artifact of the Month - Child's Dog/Goat Sulky

One of several “mystery” artifacts (objects we have no background for) stored in Redcliffe’s basement is this wood and metal, single-seat child’s sulky.

Sulkys like this one were popular in the early 20th century and could have been pulled by a goat! An image from 1911 in Redcliffe’s collection shows several Hammond children riding a wagon pulled by a goat (right). The wagon was a gift to the children from their aunt, Julia Hammond Richards.

The sulky and the 1911 goat-pulled wagon image are on display at Redcliffe during the holiday season!



Sulky (n.)

A lightweight cart having two wheels and a seat for the driver only, generally pulled by dogs, horses or goats.