

# St. Simons

**VOLUME 46, NUMBER 4** 

WINTER 2019/2020

### A.W. Jones Heritage Center

610 Beachview Drive St. Simons Island

Admin Offices: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., M-F Store: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., M-Sat 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Sun

### Lighthouse Museum

101 12th Street St. Simons Island

### World War II **Home Front Museum**

4201 1st Street, East Beach St. Simons Island

### **Museum Hours of Operation**

10 a.m. - 5 p.m., M-Sat 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Sun Last tickets sold: 4:30 p.m.

### **Museum Admission Fees**

Single Tickets \$12 Adults \$6 Ages 6-12

**Combined Tickets** 

\$20 Adults \$10 Ages 6-12

\$2 Military discount with ID Children under 6 and Society members are admitted free of charge.

ACCREDITED BY THE



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On September 15, 1942, in the South Pacific, three Japanese torpedoes slammed into the US aircraft carrier Wasp, setting off a series of explosions, followed by uncontrollable fires. Thirty-five minutes after impact, Captain Forest P. Sherman gave the order to abandon ship. The irreparably damaged ship drifted until nightfall, when the destroyer USS Lansdowne was ordered to torpedo and sink the

Wasp. Almost 200 sailors had perished. Among the dead were young men from Atlanta, Dalton, and Tifton, Georgia. Among the survivors was fighter pilot David McCampbell, who later became the U.S. Navy's all-time leading ace.

Earlier this year, the Research Vessel Petrel located the Wasp, resting at a depth of 13,800 feet in the Coral Sea.



# Membership Highlights!

Thank you to those who have generously upgraded their membership.

### General

Judy and Peter Aydelott—Lamplighter

Marn Larsen-Ball—Family

Lillian Clarke—Curator

Pamela and Simon Curtis—Family

Cay and George Ellis—Curator

Christina and Thomas Ernst—Assistant Keeper

Margaret and Douglas Hunt—Lamplighter

Jim Lanier—Curator

Mark Propst and Jim Wolf—Family

Linda and Steve Smith—Family

Terry Trotochaud—Curator

### **Welcome New Members**

### Keeper of the Light

Leigh and Melvin Deese—Sustainer
Teresa and Jim Ervin—Sustainer
Donn Vecchie-Campbell—Sustainer

### General

Hugh Breslin-Individual Larry Brown-Individual Russell Busbee-Individual Cherise Cartwright—Family Kathryn Cathey—Individual Sara and William Cook—Family William Cope-Family Michelle DeHaven-Family Nancy and Charlie Drummond—Family Kristin and Larry Everson—Family Karen and Rich Fleming-Family Kim Friend—Individual Charles Jones-Family Carol and Stuart Kiernan-Family Jane Adams MacKenna—Individual Haile McCollum-Family Elizabeth and Johnathan Olson-Family William Rawlings—Family Debbie Salver-Individual

### **Memorial and Tribute Gifts**

In memory of Dr. Irwin Berman
Mimi and John Rogers

### In memory of Janice Brothers

Kathryn and Steven Brothers Joseph Greenberg Joanne Johnson Rita Purdy

### In memory of Edith and Earl Cook Carol and Marc Lane

In honor of Sandy Jensen

Cherokee Garden Club

In memory of A.C. and Evelyn Oliver Betty Oliver and Robert Fischer

### **Bequest**

The Estate of Lee Scheinman

# The Epic Hunt for a Lost World War II Aircraft Carrier



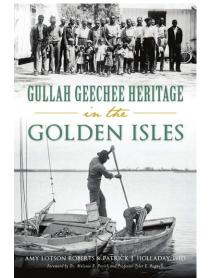
Continued From Front Cover

At our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 19, at The Cloister, British journalist Ed Caesar will describe the fascinating hunt for the carrier. He spent two weeks with the expedition and witnessed the discovery of the Wasp. The Petrel was retrofitted by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen in 2016 to search for historically significant wrecks located in deep waters and challenging conditions.

Caesar is highly acclaimed for his

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The Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 19, 2020 at 3 p.m. at The Cloister on Sea Island. Society members attend the meeting and lecture free of charge. The cost for non-members is \$25. Registration is required by visiting coastalgeorgiahistory.org.





### Recollections with Amy Roberts

On February 6 at 6 p.m., local historian Amy Roberts will pull from her memory – and her new book – to discuss the African American history of our area. Patrick Holladay, co-author of Gullah Geechee Heritage in the Golden Isles, will join Roberts in an engaging conversation about the important cultural experiences they are working to preserve.

Roberts is the Executive Director of the St. Simons African American Heritage Coalition. Holladay is President of the Friends of Harrington School and associate professor at Troy University. This presentation will be followed by a book signing and is free and open to the public. Registration is required by visiting coastalgeorgiahistory.org.

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The Society participated in Burroughs-Molette Elementary School's Veterans Day Program on November 8, highlighting the role of the Coast Guard in keeping America safe. World War II Home Front Museum Site Manager Kim Campbell demonstrated the use of semaphore and signal flags to communicate in code, while Education Director Sandy Jensen assisted students in cracking a "secret message" and coloring their own unique symbol flags. Society member Emerson Mungin, Jr. also participated in the event. Mr. Mungin discussed his family's role in the military, part of which is featured within the Home Front Museum. He urged the students to seek out the stories of veterans who are family members or friends.

# **Museum News**

Both Museums and Museum Stores will be closed for maintenance and inventory January 6 - 10.

# Leave a Lasting Mark



Naming opportunities are still available at the World War II Home Front Museum. They are a meaningful way to honor loved ones, while also celebrating and preserving the history of Coastal Georgia. Benches, trees, exhibits, and museum interactives are available for naming. All proceeds will fund an endowment to maintain the Coast Guard Station and Boathouse. Please contact our Membership/ Development Coordinator Nina Witman at (912) 634-7096 or at nwitman@coastalgeorigahistory.org if you are interested in learning more.

### **Event Rentals**



Looking for a perfect spot to host your next event? Don't forget about our beautiful Event Hall inside the A.W. Jones Heritage Center! We can accommodate a variety of events—weddings, rehearsal dinners, lectures, board meetings, corporate meetings, bridal luncheons, and more! We work with four caterers exclusively, so no matter your budget or taste, one of them will suit your needs. When you rent the Event Hall, tables and chairs are included, along with access to our kitchen, and the use of our grounds. You may also keep the Lighthouse open for your guests for a minimal fee. If you are interested in booking an event, please email our Events Coordinator, Jessica Aldridge, at jaldridge@coastalgeorgiahistory.org.

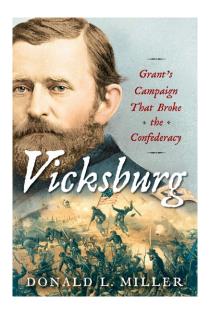
# **Buddy Sullivan Course**

### An Overview of Coastal Georgia History

Buddy Sullivan will present his six-week history course on Tuesday afternoons January 14 - February 18, 2020, from 4 - 6 p.m. at the A.W. Jones Heritage Center. The cost is \$65 for CGHS members and \$110 for non-members. Registration is required by visiting coastalgeorgiahistory.org.

# **Lecture and Book Signing**

### Donald L. Miller's Vicksburg: Grant's Campaign That Broke the Confederacy



On Sunday, February 16, at 4 p.m., bestselling author Donald L. Miller, Ph.D., is returning to present a program on his latest book, Vicksburg: Grant's Campaign That Broke the Confederacy.

This deeply researched history tells the fascinating story of the longest military campaign of the Civil War, which put the Mississippi River under Union control, split the Confederacy, freed

more than 100,000 slaves, and solidified the reputation of General U. S. Grant. Thousands of Georgia troops fought for the Confederacy in this campaign. As Grant wrote in his memoirs, "The fate of the Confederacy was sealed when Vicksburg fell."

Dr. Miller is the John Henry MacCracken Professor of History Emeritus at Lafayette College and author of ten books, including the critically acclaimed bestseller Masters of the Air. He has hosted, coproduced, or served as historical consultant for more than thirty television documentaries and has written for The New York Times. The Washington Post, and numerous other publications. His lecture will be followed by a book signing. This event is free and open to the public. Registration is required by visiting coastalgeorgiahistory.org.

# Calendar **Events**

### **Storytellers Program**

Ongoing - Tuesdays 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

World War II Home Front Museum

**Museums and Museum Stores Closed for Inventory and Maintenance** January 6 - January 10

### An Overview of Coastal Georgia History January 14- February 18

**Buddy Sullivan** 

4 - 6 p.m. • A.W. Jones Heritage Center Event Hall CGHS members \$65; non-members \$110

### **Annual Membership Meeting** January 19

"The Epic Hunt for a Lost World War II Aircraft Carrier"

Ed Caesar

3 - 4 p.m. • The Cloister at Sea Island CGHS members free; non-members \$25

### **Recollections and Book Signing** February 6

### Gullah Geechee Heritage in the Golden Isles

Amy Roberts and Patrick Holladay 6 p.m. • A.W. Jones Heritage Center Free Admission

### **Super Museum Sunday** February 9

12 - 5 p.m. • Free admission in celebration of the Georgia History Festival

### **Lecture and Book Signing** February 16

Vicksburg: Grant's Campaign That Broke the Confederacy

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4 p.m. • A.W. Jones Heritage Center Free Admission

### **Exploring African American History** in Savannah, Georgia

February 25

The Owens-Thomas House & Slave Quarters and Pin Point Heritage Museum

> 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. • Departing from the A.W. Jones Heritage Center \$135 per person

All Society events require registration. For more information on programs and the Society's hours of operation, please visit coastalgeorgiahistory.org.

Black History

# Exploring African American History in Savannah, Georgia:



On Tuesday, Februrary 25, Coastal Georgia Historical Society will lead a specialty members' tour of two Savannah-area sites that reveal the rich and varied tapestry of black history on our coast.

The morning will begin with a tour of the newly reinterpreted Owens-Thomas House & Slave Quarters, part of the Telfair Museums. In November 2018, Telfair Museums concluded work on its award-winning "Slavery and Freedom in Savannah" project, which transformed the Owens-Thomas House & Slave Quarters' working cellar, carriage house, and slave quarters with new exhibits and narratives.

Built as a Regency style mansion in 1819, the Owens-Thomas House & Slave Quarters interprets the complicated relationships between the most and least powerful people in early 19th century Savannah. During a guided tour, visitors will explore exquisitely-furnished period rooms, interactive exhibits for all ages, and redefined historic spaces, all while learning about the people, both free and enslaved, who lived and worked on the site 200 years ago.

Shannon Browning-Mullis, Curator of History & Decorative Arts, will also be on hand to display and

discuss an African American artifact from St. Simons within the Telfair's collection: the Maurice Cup, a silver tankard presented to Maurice, the enslaved head driver on one of Pierce Butler's most productive cotton plantations, for his service during the hurricane of 1804.

Famed Savannah restaurant, The Grey, will be hosting a private lunch just for our group! Occupying a restored 1938 art deco Greyhound Bus Terminal, the Grey features Chef Mashama Bailey's personal take on Port City Southern food.

The tour will continue in the afternoon with a visit to the Pin Point Heritage Museum, located in the old A.S. Varn & Son Oyster and Crab Factory. The Museum is one of the region's best sites to encounter the unique creole culture of the lowcountry, Gullah/Geechee, first hand. For nearly 100 years, the community of Pin Point was quietly isolated on the banks of the Moon River just south of Savannah. Now, you can explore the refurbished museum complex and experience multimedia presentations, exciting exhibits and unparalleled views of the marsh! During the tour, participants will learn about Pin Point's history, its intimate relationship with the natural environment, and the challenges to retain the values and traditions of the community.

The Tour will depart from the A.W. Jones Heritage Center at 7 a.m. on Tuesday, February 25, and return at approximately 6 p.m. The cost of the tour is \$135 per person and includes guided tours of both museums, lunch, and transportation to, from, and within the city of Savannah. Once purchased, tickets are non-refundable, though they may be transferred to another Society Member. Absolutely no cancellations. Registration is required by visiting coastalgeorgiahistory.org.



P.O. BOX 21136 ST. SIMONS ISLAND, GEORGIA 31522

**Return Service Requested** 

NON-PROFIT **ORGANIZATION** U.S. POSTAGE PAID BRUNSWICK, GA 31520 Permit No. 369



### 2019 Board of Directors

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David Furnish

Bill Stembler

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**Executive Director** 

Curator

**Education Director** 

**Public Relations Director** 

Nina Witman

World War II **Home Front Museum** Site Manager

Office Manager

**Director of Retail Operations** 

**Events Coordinator** 

Museum Store Buyer

Consulting Archaeologist: Nick Honerkamp, Ph.D.

Let us hear from you!

Phone: (912) 634-7090; Fax: (912) 638-6609 Mail: P.O. Box 21136, St. Simons Island, GA 31522 Online: Visit coastalgeorgiahistory.org Be a Fan: Follow us on Facebook or Instagram

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Janis Rodriguez, Collections and Education

Mail: P.O. Box 21136, St. Simons Island, GA 31522

Jeanne Kaufmann

**Executive Committee** 

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Duane Harris, Vice President

Sherri Jones, Executive Director

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COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE END OF WORLD WAR II

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Store: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., M-Sat 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Sun

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St. Simons Island

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World War II

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COASTAL GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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**GOLDEN ISLES** 

# Black History

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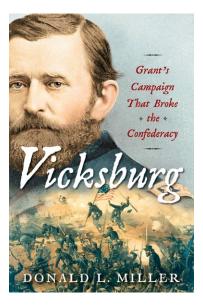
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Amy Roberts and Patrick Holladay
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