

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

UPCOMING EVENTS
AT REDCLIFFE

Scandals & GOSSIP

Sat, Apr 8 5:30 pm
\$9/Adults, \$6.50/SC
Seniors & Ages 6-16
Call to reserve your spot!

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 Hips

Redcliffe in Carolina Gardens

1. The author references "Carolina," a film which supposedly used Redcliffe's mansion as an inspiration for its sets.
2. The book contains one of the best descriptions of Redcliffe employee Patience Crawford and her duties.
3. Includes a description of James H. Hammond describing the hills of Georgia as his "front hedges."
4. The book has great architectural descriptions of the historic mansion.

Redcliffe Southern Times

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 9

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Carolina Gardens

Everyone is familiar with the expression "Cotton is King." This summer I came upon [James H. Hammond's] ancient palace, white, spacious, deserted, in the midst of a royal grove, and from its high tower I looked down at the paths and flowers of a garden... and the long avenue of magnolia grandiflora that leads across the fields to the house, a regal driveway enclosed by tall green walls...

~ ETH Shaffer, "Carolina Gardens," 1937

Visiting Redcliffe around 1935 or 1936, author ETH Shaffer was quickly charmed by the quaint country estate of the Hammond family. His purpose in visiting the site was to include it in his book, "Carolina Gardens," which would be published in 1937.

The book was supposed to be a tribute to the great colonial and antebellum gardens of the Carolinas, as well as a compendium of some of the great "modern" gardens of North & South Carolina. It reads today

as a highly romantic account of Shaffer's visits to various gardens with many fervent tributes to an idealized version of the Old South.

Shaffer included description of Redcliffe's antebellum gardens, described to him by his good friend Henry C. Hammond: *From France Harry Hammond sent vines for planting a hundred-acre vineyard east of the grove where the great wine vats stand... as well as descriptions of the less formal gardens of the*

1930's: *In front of the house is a large semi-circular space divided into formal flower beds, a few still planted with althaeas and old-fashioned annuals.*

Although "Carolina Gardens" is out of print many libraries have copies and vintage copies are available online.

See the sidebar for interesting facts about Redcliffe from "Carolina Gardens." We will also be talking about the book during our March tours.

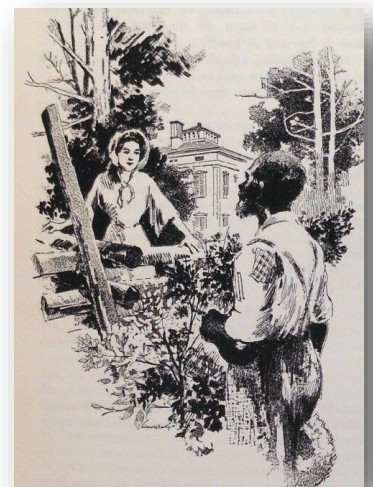
Maum Nancy

A Story Inspired by Redcliffe

Carolina Gardens was not the only book published in 1937 which found inspiration from Redcliffe Plantation and the Hammond family. *Maum Nancy - A Story* was set at Redcliffe and was written by Susan Merrick Heywood, a longtime friend of Katherine Hammond Billings. Katherine's son, John Shaw Billings, once referred to Susan as "Mother's oldest friend" and Susan dedicated *Maum Nancy* to the memory of Katherine, "whose plantation-home life made this story possible".

Susan Merrick Heywood, who had tuberculosis, was originally from New England and came to Aiken as a young woman for the healthful climate. Once in South Carolina, she was befriended by Katherine and the Hammond family. On several occasions, Katherine accompanied Susan on trips to the North for the summer season.

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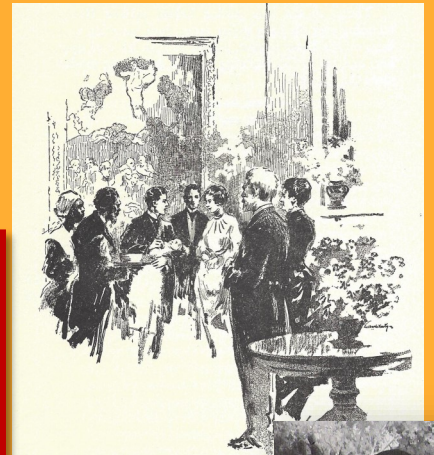
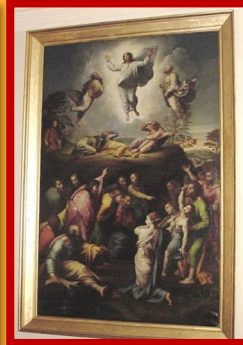
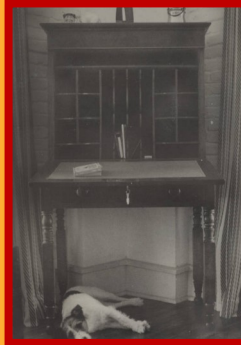
Maum Nancy, continued

Though written in the 1930's, the story of *Maum Nancy* takes place in the latter half of the 19th century, after the Civil War. The story revolves around the daughter of a wealthy plantation owner, who falls in love with a railroad man from Boston, and her relationship with her father, her home, and the loyal servants at the plantation. The title character, Maum Nancy, is one of those faithful servants and her dedication to the family is a large part of the story. Redcliffe Plantation is readily recognizable in the romantic descriptions and illustrations of the book.



There stood Nancy, carrying a tall glass of mint julep

Illustrations - (previous page) Redcliffe's mansion with original cupola appears in the background of a scene. (left) Maum Nancy appears in a scene with a figure who looks a great deal like Redcliffe's second owner Harry Hammond and Harry's writing desk. (right) A party scene takes place in front of the copy of Raphael's *Transfiguration of Christ* in Redcliffe's parlor.

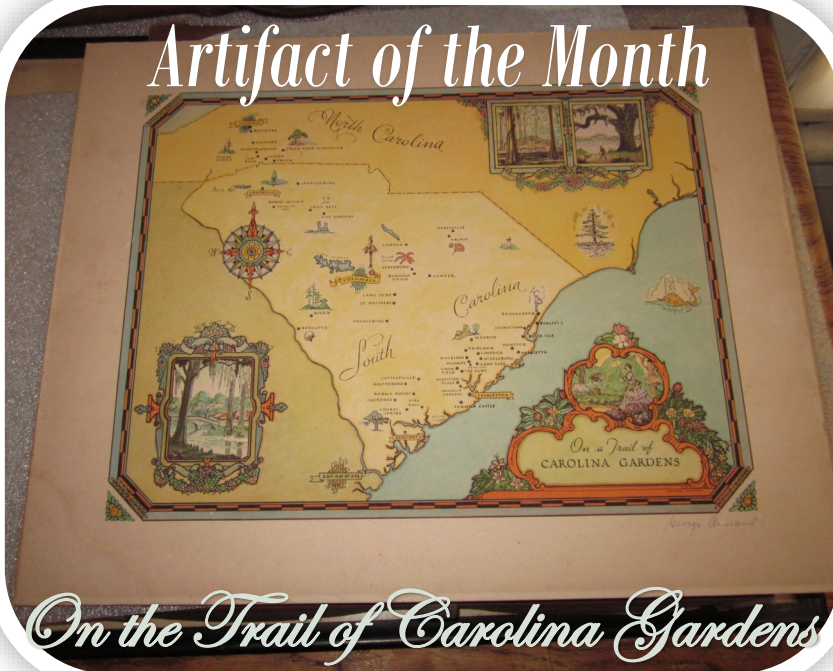


"Name this child"



Maum Nancy was illustrated by Wilbur G. Kurtz (right), a well-known artist of scenes of the Old South for books, newspapers, movies, and magazines. Best known as a historian and technical advisor for *Gone with the Wind*, Wilbur Kurtz also played a key role in the restoration of the Cyclorama of the Battle of Atlanta and was the technical advisor for 2 other films: *Song of the South* and *The Great Locomotive Chase*. For many years, rumors have persisted that Redcliffe Plantation was in *Gone with the Wind*. That really is just a rumor. *Gone with the Wind* was filmed in California. Yet, though not directly connected to the famous movie, Redcliffe Plantation certainly is connected to one of its artists, Wilbur G. Kurtz, through his illustrations for *Maum Nancy*.

Artifact of the Month



Redcliffe Plantation's archival collection contains two copies of a map which, in a smaller version, appeared as the inside cover illustration for *Carolina Gardens*.

These larger versions of the map measure about 15" x 12" and one includes the name of the cartographer, **GEORGE ANNAND**, written in pencil in the bottom right hand corner.

GEORGE ANNAND was a cartographer working out of New York from the 1930's—the 1950's.

You can see this map, "On the Trail of Carolina Gardens," on display in the historic mansion during our March house tours.