



THE COLUMN

DAVENPORT HOUSE MUSEUM

December 2022

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The Column is published in December and March.



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Anticipating the DH's New Year is Like Waiting for Christmas

Each year at this time, the Museum produces this newsletter to let donors know their gifts are being spent wisely. Funds donated through **Friends of the Davenport House Annual Giving Campaign** are used for maintenance and operations, or for what is termed **general operating support** of the Davenport House. The Friends program is an important cornerstone of the financial health of the Museum. If you have not yet donated to the campaign, please do! There is a form on the last page of the newsletter, or you will find the **donate button** on the Museum's website which is located at davenportmuseum.org. Everyone at the DH is deeply appreciative of Friends' commitment to maintaining the house as a first-class museum.

As we pass the monumental year of 2022, we look to yet another milestone year in 2023 with the reopening of DH basement as an exhibit space. It will be the culmination of years of planning, preceded by years of research. Anticipating the opening, which should take place in the first quarter of the New Year, we spent some time with exhibit designer Doug Mund of **Dmdg2**, who has been involved with the Davenport House/Kennedy Pharmacy Evolution since 2015. Our conversation was about the final leg of the Museum adventure: the Urban Enslaved Exhibition, housed in the above-ground basement.

The conversation began by pointing out the length of the Museum's relationship with Doug, who the staff first met in 2015 at the annual meeting of the Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries (GAMG then, GAM now) in Statesboro. An architect and designer with broad experience, he said, "It is not unusual for a project to take seven or eight years from start-up to completion. And think about what this institution has achieved since we started, and all the people who have played a role in making it happen." Since 2015, Mund led a master planning exercise, developed models and drawings for the KP (particularly regarding the shop set up), created the Preservation Center timeline and then turned his focus to the DH basement. He was an active member in the Exhibit Development Committee that was tasked with using scholar Kelly Westfield's research to create a meaningful exhibit.

Doug said that he struggled with striking the right balance in creating an immersive experience that would work with how the upper floors are interpreted. "The stories are so powerful. We want the interactives to be respectful of the space and the people who lived there." Like the upstairs, dramatic architecture will be enhanced by period artifacts acquired to facilitate the narrative of the household. The light level will be low to recreate as accurately as can be done safely the way it was. He offered, "Light levels can change how people experience a space." There will be motion activated sound in each of



Recently uncovered hook in DH kitchen hearth.

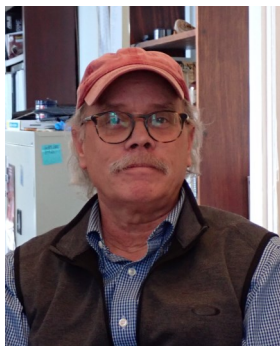
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the spaces accessible to visitors.

Docents will begin tours of the house by entering the new basement exhibit through the courtyard garden door. On entering, patrons will hear a two-minute audio presenting the significance of the space. The sound and light will supplement the written text panels mounted throughout. The urban enslaved story will be introduced and put into its context here through the lives of Nancy, Bella, Jack, Jacob, Isaac, Polly, Mary, Ann, Ned, Davy, Peggy, Deeping and Tom in the place where they lived and toiled. Doug wants his work to produce an emotional response to the lives of the thirteen who beckon “REMEMBER ME.”

All of those involved with the new exhibit’s development are hopeful for both an impactful experience and the satisfaction of knowing their work has fostered the best interpretation for a first-class museum. We can hardly wait to see it!



Melissa Jest: DH Touchstone

“It is not what you get but what you give.”

In this season of giving, we share a conversation with Melissa Jest, who over the past two decades, has made an impressive yet little-known impact on the Davenport House (DH).

The below is from our talk:

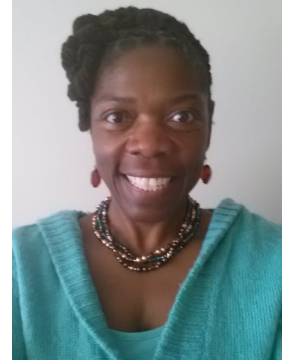
Background: “I was born in Savannah but spent the first 11 years of my life in New York City in Harlem. My mother moved there at the tail end of the Great Migration in the 1960s. We moved back to Savannah and Mother bought a fixer upper in East Savannah. Her three girls were expected to put on their dungarees and help with home repairs under her direction. She bought a series of *Time Life* books instructing on every home improvement task. Using these, we made our house our home. That was my indoctrination to historic preservation – taking care of our home.”

Relationship with HSF and the DH: “In 2000 the Historic Savannah Foundation (HSF) was looking for a native Savannahian of African descent to spread the word of preservation outside the Landmark District. My mentor, Willie Mae Robinson said, ‘I think you should apply.’ I was successful. My job was to communicate through the HSF to people living in areas that had been neglected and were black or predominantly black..” It was during her time as an HSF staff member that she became familiar with the Davenport House.

Preserve America Presidential Award: While at the HSF, Melissa initiated the successful nomination of the Davenport House Museum to receive a Preservation American Presidential Award recognizing its 2000-2003 reinterpretation.

Jamal Touré connection:

In 2003 Melissa introduced Jamal Touré to the Museum, which has resulted in a



twenty-year relationship. Each October, Touré brings his impressive performing and interpretive skills, as well as depth of knowledge to the DH’s Yellow Fever program. She said, “Getting him involved was not hard. He was a noticeable personality. When I met him, I learned about his Gullah Geechee roots and his desire to broaden the interpretation in and around Savannah of the Gullah Geechee and African contributions to Georgia, from the founding of the colony through time. I felt it would be awesome for him to interpret this part of history [Yellow Fever] and help dispel the mythology that Africans could not catch Yellow Fever. It was my job to introduce people of color to preservation in all its forms.

[Along with his continuing relationship with the DH’s living history program in October, currently Dr. Touré is on the Davenport House Committee.]

1772 Foundation: The 1772 Foundation is a rare funding entity which focuses on historic assets including preservation activities and historic sites. It was founded in 1984 by Stewart Barnes Kean of Union, New Jersey and is named for the year 1772 when Liberty Hall, his ancestral home, was built. Melissa’s connection with the 1772 Foundation was at first collegial but in the past three years has been in a

leadership capacity. She says, “The Foundation wants preservation of place and spaces to be dynamic and to support local communities. Its role is to provide pathways to learning from the past and telling those stories.”

Melissa notes that when the Kean family discovered its connection to owning enslaved people on plantations in South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, its activities began to address those stories. Its website reads, “After learning of the Kean Family’s ties to slavery, the 1772 Foundation has committed to increased funding to racial justice and African American history funding.”

She met 1772 Foundation’s Executive Director Mary Anthony in 2007 when the HSF applied for a grant for its Revolving Fund and its Lincoln Street Initiative. Just before leaving HSF in 2007, she completed a successful \$50,000 grant application to assist in the rehabilitation of the Kennedy Pharmacy. Since then, her life’s work has taken her to Philadelphia where she was Neighborhood Coordinator for The Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia, Washington, DC where she worked as a Manager for the Historic Properties Redevelopment Program with the National Trust, to Decatur, Georgia where she was until recently Coordinator for African American Programs for the State Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO).

In 2016 she was asked to join the board of 1772 Foundation with her tenure running from 2019 through the end of 2022. Each year during her service, the DH received a check for \$5,000 earmarked for the reinterpretation of the above ground basement. She says, “As a board member we

were given the opportunity to support local efforts we are aware of and believe in. We provided administrators with a list of entities to support each year and each year my list included the DH. They knew the Museum was doing the research and reinterpretation work on the enslaved individuals who toiled there.”

Last summer as the DH was nearing completion of text panels and the audio script for the Urban Enslaved Exhibit, staff needed help with the tone and the language. They looked to Melissa for guidance, which she gave freely and promptly.

With all of her selfless assistance, we asked her, “Why?”

Melissa responded: “Being a professional of African American descent in the preservation field, I take pride and honor in bringing that perspective to this work. Historic Preservation’s aim is to save places of our shared experiences in this country. It includes my ancestors. While theirs was a hard story, it is also heartwarming. My ancestors were brought here as slaves and were dehumanized, yet they rose. We continue to rise. Given that experience and perspective, I feel called to inform the mainstream of the non-white perspective and let everyone know the missing pieces of our shared story.”

About the Urban Enslaved exhibit: “My hope is the inclusion of the lives and experiences of the African American people held in captivity there will open the minds, the hearts and the eyes of visitors who will see it. I hope they will feel the presence of those ancestors. I hope with eyes, hearts and minds open, visitors will go back into their lives more

human and understanding that my ancestors were human. With an understanding of our shared humanity, we will face those inhumane practices that we have developed out of our ignorance. That is my hope with the reinterpretation and that is why I took that opportunity to support the Davenport House in doing that work. As Michael Bernard Beckwith of Agape International Spiritual Center says, “We are not here to get anything. We are here to give. We are here to give our gifts.”

As for the larger entity: “I want the DH to always stand. It holds a space that is a landmark for all of us. It is touchable for all of us. I am glad to be a part of supporting the organization. The more people who know about the DH as a preservation asset, a historic landmark and a reminder of how the built environment expresses history, the more will be inspired. Inspiration has the power to make us more human, more giving and more compassionate. Telling the story of enslavement and its brutality could keep people from doing it again. It could inspire people to be more equitable in how they treat people. This story is an important part of me and my story in Savannah – my home.”

In October Melissa began a new position with the National Trust for Historic Preservation as Manager for Preservation Projects of the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund.



Focusing on Sugar and Port City Life



Each November/December the Davenport House's interpretation shifts slightly to make a nod to seasonal delights that visitors enjoy. They expect to see something different at holiday time. In reviewing our story with tour partners at Old Town Trolley in the fall, we mentioned that we hoped patrons would understand why they would not be seeing Santa, Rudolph, a Christmas tree and other contemporary holiday standards at the DH. The staff were gratified to hear that trolley patrons like our early 19th century story which focuses on New Year's. And, a representative added, "It is good to remind people that things have not always been as they are now." Wow.! Yes.

In addition to putting the house into New Year's mode, the staff present docents with a special focus to incorporate into tours as best they can. In the past we have looked at seasonal delights such as punch, dancing and music, as well as fundamentals which might get overlooked if not pointed out such as home fires, bread and butchered meat. This year's special focus is a combination of the two – a seasonal delight and what we think of today as fundamental for daily life. It is everywhere. It is sugar.

Here are a few general historical notes to provide a background to the sugar that found its way to the Davenport table and to ours.

- Over the course of time, sugar, which was first grown in New Guinea ten thousand years ago, went from a precious commodity to ubiquity! It was once considered as

spice and now it is stacked in five-pound bags going up to the ceiling in Walmart.

- The spread of sugar cane cultivation, which is a complicated process, moved across the Pacific to continental Asia, to north Africa to southern Europe to central and northern Europe and then across the Atlantic to the Americas.
- A new type of agriculture system, the Plantation System, developed to produce sugar cane.
- On his second voyage to the Caribbean, Christopher Columbus introduced sugar cane to Hispaniola in 1493.
- From the 16th through the 19th century, plantations in the Caribbean were the center of the world's sugar production.
- Sugar and slavery were fundamentals in the transatlantic world i.e. **The Triangle of Trade**.
- Americans, like their European cousins, had an insatiable appetite for sugar. It was produced in the Caribbean and often refined elsewhere in the colonies or Europe.
- Sugar cane and revolution are intertwined in the western world. It played a role in the north American colonies gaining independence and in enslaved cane cutters seeking and winning their freedom

from colonial dominion in Haiti.

- Sugar has been grown in Georgia since the 18th century. Thomas Spalding of Sapelo Island profited from the production of Sea Island Cotton and sugar cane on his property. Newspapers touted the potential for economic gain from growing cane in the counties bordering Florida in the early 19th century.

This brings us to the early 19th century and the Davenport House story. Because Savannah was a port city, there was a variety of types of sugar available to households that could afford it. Newspaper advertisement include "Prime Muscovado Sugar" in hogsheads (63 gallons each) and barrels (8.1 gallons each), "two hundred bags of E.I. [East Indies] double boil'd course yellow grain'd Sugar," "40 hhds prime N.O. Sugars,; 5 hhds prime St. Croix Sugar, "112 bbls Loaf Sugar," "Loaf and Lump Sugar," "50 boxes Alexandria sugar," etc. These would be used to create rare treats including cakes and cookies, blanc-mange, charlotte russe, as well as drinks such as syllabub, punch and cordials. Items exhibited at the DH for the holidays, which would have contained sugar, are pecan pie, calfs foot jelly, cake and frosting, cookie as well as punch and tea. Artifacts that relate to sugar on Isaiah Daven-

port's 1827 estate inventory include the sideboards, dining table, *fine China tea set, one set Liverpool ware, tea table, fruit plates, kitchen furniture, 12 silver table-spoons, 1 ladle, 12 tablespoons & 1 pair sugar tongs, 5 half worn table cloths, etc.*

A port city profession not found in smaller towns of the time was "The Confectioner." Four confectioners purchased advertisements in early 19th century Savannah newspapers. We share Joseph Truchelut's ad from June 4, 1818 as we think about port city life and the Davenports' table, and as we contemplate sweet treats and sugary drinks this holiday season.

Joseph Truchelut,
CONFECTIONER,

(On the Bay, nearly opposite the Exchange)

Returns his most unfeigned thanks to his friends and customers for the liberal encouragement they have hitherto given him, and hopes a continuance of it; which he will endeavor to merit by assiduity and a steady attention to the convenience of his guests, for whose amusements, he will, after the 15th day of the present month, keep regular files of the Boston Patriot, Philadelphia Aurora, New-York Gazette, Baltimore Patriot, National Intelligencer, and the Charleston Courier and Southern Patriot.

As heretofore, refreshments will be ready at all hours and Tarts at the usual time – his Liguors will yield in point of quality to none in the city. Pastries of every description and to any extent, may at all times

be had by giving a day's previous notice.

He has on hand

Best Claret, common do,
Madeira, Malaga, Port and Teneriff
Wines, in bottles

Champagne, Fronttgranan and
Sautern Wines, by the dozen or
single bottle

Porter, &c.

Aniseed, Noyeau, mint, rose, perfect love, cinnamon, orange, coffee, cloves and raspberry
Cordials

Syrup of Lemon, do of Vinegar, do of Quanets

Do of Orgeate, do of Maiden-Hair, do of Pomegranate

Do of Raspberry, jelly of Quinces, do of Apples

Jelly of Plumbs, do of Whortleberries, do of Currants

Quince Preserves in syrup, Orange do do

Papau do do. Peach do do and a brandy

Sweet Chocolate, and plain do
Sugar Plumbs and Candy of all sorts

And every other article in the confectionary line.

N.B. Considerable difficulty and loss often arising from crediting, he finds that in future he will be under the necessity of trusting no person.

Gazing into the past is like looking in the window of Mr. Truchelut's shop and not being able to go in. We can only guess at what it was like.

Happy New Year!

**DH HOLIDAY PARTY:
Sweet People and
Sweet Treats**



Gaye Kurmas and Hugh Osborne.



Dessert table.



Savannah Arts Academy
Junior Interpreter Class
Fall 2022.

Bejeweled and Fabulous Anna: Granddaughters Recall Anna Hunter

Hetty Jardine and Julie Jardine, granddaughters of Anna Colquitt Hunter – the ringleader of *our 7 Ladies* and one of the founders of Historic Savannah Foundation, visited the DH/HSF on December 5 with the intention of seeing the historic preservation timeline in the Preservation Center and the paintings they (along with their brothers, George and Robert) donated to the institution. They were moved by the two which hang in the Orientation Area (see photo), knowing that their grandmother's art is now on view to the public. We visited with them about Anna since we can never get enough information about her.

A recap: Anna was from an old Savannah family. She married her college sweetheart before graduating and had three children. Her husband died when she was in her 40s, and she was left to raise her children alone. She became a journalist with Savannah newspapers beginning with the social column, then the book editor and an editorial writer as well. She lived for a time at the Card House in Bluffton, but moved back to Savannah after her children graduated from high school. She then moved to her River Street apartment while working at the newspaper and painting. One of her passions was the historic fabric of Savannah. In 1955 she famously called six of her fellow female *movers and shakers* together to come up with a plan to save the old city. With the "cause celebre" of the impending destruction of the Davenport House, *the 7 ladies* galvanized the community, founded the Historic Savannah Foundation and saved the DH.

As we know, Anna was a Savannah icon. We asked Hetty and Julie for personal remembrances of Anna *as a grandmother*. From the discussion she comes off a bit like Rosalind Russell in *Auntie Mame*, who famously said "Live, Live, Live!" She was always bespangled with necklaces, and she loved parties so much that her wake was a cocktail party.

It is funny the things people remember. Both Hetty and Julie recalled the same story at the same time. It was about Anna's feet and shoes! Hetty said, "She must have had bunions. The only shoes she wore were of the ballet shoe variety. They were bejeweled flats or sometime in a Persia rug design. They were 1940s bling."

She would host parties at her "atelier," 230 East Bay. Today it would be called a "warehouse apartment" which fronted on Bay Street and the back balcony looking out over the Savannah River. The large space was divided by silk folding screens with Asian designs. The only separate spaces were the bathroom and the kitchen. The ceiling was about 14 feet high, and the sisters remember them being covered with Anna's paintings.

Julie said Anna got a lot of grief for moving to her River Street apartment from concerned friends and family who were thinking about her safety. Hetty offered that she needed an inexpensive place to live where she could do her art. The street and river scenes from outside her window became the subjects of her work.

Both Julie and Hetty remember when young relatives visited Anna



Hetty Jardine and Julie Jardine with Anna Hunter paintings in the DH Museum Orientation Area—Kennedy Pharmacy.

and the ice cream man announced his arrival on River Street. She would put a nickel in a sweetgrass basket and lower it on a rope to the street below where he would take the nickel and deposit a popsicle. The basket was then hauled upward to the apartment for the treat's enjoyment there.

As young girls who grew up in Colorado, they always knew their grandmother was of importance to Savannah. She had had a one-woman art show at the Telfair and had received the Oglethorpe Award. She would visit her daughter and family in Colorado when she could, but Hetty said, "No amount of Savannah clothes could keep her warm." She would bring big pinecones and a cooler of food – particularly Lowcountry seafood. They remember her oyster stew.

Of the holiday season they recalled a story from the Hunter side of the family. On a birthday or Christmas some female relative, "it was never a male member," would receive a package with only a dried lemon inside. Who knows where that

Meet DH Museum Leaders

tradition started, but they recalled Anna saying after receiving a holiday package, “I got the lemon!”

Anna’s sister, Harriet Ross Colquitt, who like Anna was also a journalist, wrote the famous **The Savannah Cook Book** with the introduction by Ogden Nash. Many treasured family recipes are included. At holiday meals they remember the pecan pie, corn pudding and oyster dressing even while living in Colorado.

As we were concluding our visit, Julie got out her telephone and showed us a photograph of the creche that Anna purchased while working with the USO in Italy during the Second World War. It contains 35 hand-painted clay figures that Julie gets out every year. The only part of the display that is not from Anna is the wooden housing surrounding the manger scene. The original held a small outlet for a red light bulb which caught fire one year. The creche is a treasured connection with the season and her Grandmother.

Here's hoping you will think of your grandmother this season with the same kind of loving and happy memories as these.



To learn more about Anna Hunter see *A. Louise Staman. RESTORING LOST TIMES: Savannah's Anna Colquitt Hunter* for sale in the DH Shop.

Debbie Breslin, Stewart Dohrman and Josh White are new Davenport House Committee members. Kelly Holmes is a new Davenport House Endowment Director.

DEBBIE BRESLIN

Hometown and Background: I was born and raised in Princeton, NJ. I graduated from The College of New Jersey. I taught developmentally disabled students for 10 years after which I directed a state program creating training materials and training people about health insurance for the elderly and disabled (e.g. Medicare, Long-Term Care insurance, etc.

Other Volunteer Activities: I have volunteered at a hospital, “patterning” severely disabled children, and preparing food packages at a food bank.

Involvement with the DH: I have always been interested in history. I like to read both historical fiction as well as historical non-fiction. One of my hobbies is genealogical research. Becoming a docent after I retired was one of my goals. My husband and I moved to Savannah in 2016. In February 2017, I saw a notice about docent training and signed up.

Like about the DH: I love telling the story of the Davenport family. As a woman, I’m especially impressed by Sarah’s strength after losing the first three of her children in such quick succession and later her husband leaving her to raise their 7 children, and later helping to raise Cornelia’s children after Cornelia’s death.

Future of the DH: The evolving story of the enslaved people in the Davenport House excites and intrigues me. Living in the same house with your master(s) presents a dynamic that many of our visitors may not have ever thought about. With the restoration of the basement, the DH has the opportunity to expand its interpretation to include other members of the household and their stories.



STEWART DORHMAN

Hometown and Background: I am from Louisville, Kentucky and now I am the owner and president of Dohrman Construction, Preservation and Consulting. I have a BS in Civil Engineering from University of Kentucky and MFA in Historic Preservation, Savannah College of Art and Design.

Involvement with the DH: My involvement with the house stretches back nearly two decades. I was interim director in 2002. During that time, I did specifications for the Kennedy Pharmacy in anticipation of its being rehabbed; I did preliminary planning for the res-



Continued from the previous page.

toration and re-interpretation of the basement and attic. I also created the computer database for collections management which the Museum continues to use. In 2016 my company restored wood sash windows and repainted all the windows. For a number of years, I have been on the DH Volunteer Maintenance/Preservation Team which meets annually to review the preservation of the house and recommend a course of action.

Other Volunteer Activities:

Last March through my company I funded the cost of planting 93 trees in my neighborhood. The Parkside Tree Project is focused on replacing the dying tree canopy to reserve effects of climate change. The Project brought together neighbors as well as SCAD students to do the work of planting the trees.

Like about the DH: I love the house. When I tell the story of preservation of the city, I start with this building. I like the interpretation of the house particularly the direction it is taking in interpreting the basement level.

Future of the DH: I worry about the Davenport House and others like it that are operating as historic sites. I want them to keep telling the stories they have to tell.

KELLY HOLMES

Hometown and Background: I grew up in Chelmsford, Massachusetts. Since graduating from the University of Massachusetts, I spent 10 years in Boston, one year in San Francisco, and nine years in Chicago. I had a successful 20-year career in investment management sales. I saved every penny so that I could eventually explore other enjoyable pursuits.

I have lived in Savannah since May 2021.

Involvement with the DH:

In January 2021, I toured Davenport House during my first extended stay in Savannah. This was during the depths of COVID. Davenport House was (rightfully) offering limited touring given the pandemic.

Like about the DH: I was deeply impressed with the outdoor orientation we received, as well as the quality of printed materials provided. By May 2021, we became permanent residents. A few months later, Sheena Fulkerson posted information about Docent training on **Nextdoor**. I couldn't wait to sign up!

Other Volunteer Activities: In addition to giving weekly tours at Davenport House, I serve as Co-Captain for Columbia Ward, an assembler of after-school meals at the Kids Café at America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia.; and the Zoom Producer for the Women's Investment Professionals Group of Chicago.

Like about the DH: I love the DH's commitment to scholarship and historical accuracy; truth-telling Savannah's legacies, both proud and painful; and, the people!!!!

I am so excited about our newest Exhibits coming soon, which focus on Urban Slavery and boast a restored kitchen area. With these in place, we will be able to tell even more fully the story of the Davenport House inhabitants and the culture of 1820s Savannah.

Future of the DH: I look for-



ward to partnering with Staff at the Davenport House to get the word out on these developments, increase foot traffic, and maintain our position as one of the most unique and educational house museums in Savannah.

JOSH WHITE

Hometown and Background:

Savannah is home. I majored in history at Western Carolina University. Returning home after college in 2012, I started giving tours of the house. I spent seven years in the museum field before returning home to start Port Town Collective, an event stage business in 2021.

Involvement with the DH: I reengaged with the Davenport House upon my return. Though my start-up business takes up almost every minute, what time I do have I would like to give to the DH.

Like about the DH: I identify with the story of Isaiah. He was a hard worker; a risk taker; a business owner trying to give his family a better life. It is the ultimate life lesson - enjoy the moments between the beginning and end. I commend the DH staff for always giving 210% to the preservation of this fine old house. I worked in non-profits for 12 years before Covid and have never seen a team more dedicated to its institution. They have done an exceptional job generating community. Thank you for keeping me engaged over the years!



DH Programs Calendar: Winter and Spring 2023

HSF LECTURE SERIES: THE HISTORIC HOUSE OF IRE- LAND: ATTINGHAM STUDY PROGRAM REPORT

SPEAKER: Jamie Credle, Director,
Davenport House Museum

DATE: Thursday, January 19

TIME: Social at 5:30 p.m., Lecture at
6 p.m.

LOCATION: Board Room, Historic
Savannah Foundation Headquarters,
321 E. York Street, Savannah

"POTABLE GOLD": SAVANNAH'S MADEIRA TRADITION

**Friday and Saturday evenings in
February 2022**

PROGRAM DATES: February 3, 4,
10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

SUPER MUSEUM SUNDAY

DATE: Sunday, February 5

TIME: Noon to 4 p.m.

VALENTINE'S DAY WEDDINGS IN THE DAVENPORT HOUSE GARDEN

DATE: Tuesday, February 14, 2023

TIMES: 10 minutes increments from
5 to 7 p.m.

SPRINGTIME TEA AT THE DAVENPORTS'

**Wednesdays and Thursdays in
March 2023**

PROGRAM DATES: March 1, 2, 9,
10, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30

TIME: 5 p.m.

EARLY BIRD'S WALKING TOUR: DISCOVERING 1820s SAVANNAH – ARCHITECTURE OF THE NEW NATION

Saturdays in April 2023

PROGRAM DATES: April 1, 8, 15,
22, 29

TIME: 8 a.m.

TEA AT THE DAVENPORTS' Wednesdays and Thursdays in May 2022

PROGRAM DATES: May 3, 10, 11,
17, 18, 24, 25, 31

TIME: 5 p.m.

EARLY BIRD'S PRESERVATION WALKING TOUR OF THE LANDMARK HISTORIC DIS- TRICT'S EAST SIDE

Saturdays in May 2023

PROGRAM DATES: May 6, 13, 20,
27

TIME: 8 a.m.

Best Tour Guide 2022 Tourism Leadership Council Award Recipient: MARTY BARNES

At the December 8, 2022, Tourism Leadership Council Awards ceremony and banquet, the DH's Marty Barnes received the "Best Tour Guide" award besting two other nominees. The below is a portion of her nomination:

Marty Barnes will defy you. She will defy your expectations of a historic house museum docent (tour guide). She will defy the stereotype of decrepitude associated with aging. We nominate Marty Barnes as the Best Tour Guide!

She has been a staff tour guide at the Davenport House since 2006. When she was hired, she was also a tour guide at the Owens Thomas House. She has worked as a step-on guide for various companies, including Adventures in Savannah. A graduate of Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA with a BS in Commerce and Finance minor in English and Journalism, she was Managing Editor of *Georgia Travel Publications* in Atlanta for ten years. She also writes a blog on "Historic Romance of Savannah" and is the project historian/blogger for the Mulberry Grove Foundation, Inc.

Instead of settling into sentimentality and nostalgia – as is a stereotype of southern house museum tours, Marty creates her tour with a journalist's commitment to the story. She uses clear, expressive language, and she never hesitates to incorporate new information into the presentation she delivers to the public. She does not talk down to her audience, nor does she deliver a rote monologue. Engagement and communication are hallmarks of her presentation. Often she will report back on the stories guests have given her about themselves. She knows that sharing and communicating are a two-way-street.

Marty is the DH's most senior docent, yet she moves with a sureness in her step. The Museum was only closed for ten weeks in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. On June 1 she was waiting at the door to come back. She masked up and gave tours and has continued to do so every Saturday afternoon. She is the docent the Museum's Tour Coordinator suggests all new docents shadow as she demonstrates all of the positive attributes front line staff should have – a welcoming demeanor, vivid and accurate interpretation and an awareness of safety and security.

In addition to being a tour guide, she volunteers her services as a proofreader and marketing professional. There is very little that leaves the DH Director's desk that has not been proofread and improved by Marty.

She is a committed citizen who does not hesitate to share her opinion through letters to the editors on topics related to the livability of Savannah. In making her voice heard and continuing to be a vital member of the DH community, she has become a role model defying stereotypes. She is our GOAT (Greatest of All Times), and we would put her up against any tour guide in the city.



c/o P.O Box 1733
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The DH's New Year's Baby is
Robin Wild

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