



Isaiah Davenport House Volunteer Newsletter

July 2010

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CELEBRATION OF INDEPENDENCE

The festivity that commemorates the anniversary of our independence, extended to the insolvent debtors confined within the county goal, who were regaled by Major D'Lyon, the gaoler, with a handsome dinner. During a free circulation of the enlivening glass, the following toasts were drunk, interspersed with songs, and accompanied by discharges of musketry.

1. **The Day we celebrate** – The same, in doors or out.
2. **The banner of our Country** – Resting on the bosom of Freedom, may it float time immemorial
3. **Our Army** – Look at the battles of Chippewa, New Orleans, Bridgewater, &c.
4. **Our Navy** – The bulwark of Freedom protected by Heaven.
5. **Our country, our fathers, our fire-sides and lives, Our ancestors' altars, our friends and our wives.**
6. **Isaac D'Lyon, Esq.** – The humane and skillful commander of the "brig Standfast of Chatham County" 9 Cheers.
7. **Charles Harris, Thos. U.P. Charlton, Levi S. D'Lyon, and Mordecai Sheftall, Sen. Esq.'s.** -- The generous advocates of the unfortunate debtor.
8. **George Washington**, the father of our country.
9. **Wm. H. Crawford**, our next President.
10. **Gen. A. Jackson**, and "the Hunters of Kentucky."
11. **Capt. E. F. Tattall** – The warm friend and experienced soldier.
12. **Gen. Thomas Glascock** -- The noble statesman and brave defender of the state of Georgia.
13. **The Fair Daughters of America** – Their smiles inspire the soldier, and incite him to deeds of valor.

July 10, 1823, [Savannah Daily Republican](#).

DAVENPORT HOUSE CALENDAR

Monday, July 1 from 6 to 8 p.m. –

Junior Interpreter Program

Sunday, July 4 – Independence

Day – Museum Closed

Tuesday, July 6 at 5:30 p.m. –

Preliminary meeting for "Yellow Fever" Program

Wednesday, July 7 from 9:30

until noon – DH Docent Training Program

Thursday, July 8 from 6 to 8 p.m.

– Junior Interpreter program

Wednesday, July 14 from 9:30

a.m. until noon – DH Docent Training Program

p.m. – Garden Rental

(ceremony only)

Thursday, July 15 from 6 to 8

p.m. – Junior Interpreter Program

Saturday, July 17 – Garden Rental

Tuesday, July 20 at noon –

Davenport House Committee

Wednesday, July 21 from 9:30

a.m. until noon – DH Docent Training Program

Thursday, July 22 at 8:30 a.m. in

the Kennedy Pharmacy –

Davenport House Endowment Directors Quarterly Meeting

Friday, July 23 from 11:30 until 1

p.m. – Annual Volunteer/Docent Salad Luncheon with guest Daniel Carey

Wednesday, July 28 from 9:30

a.m. until noon – DH Docent Training Program

Thursday, July 29 from 6 to 8

p.m. – Junior Interpreter Program

Y'ALL COME: Summer Luncheon with DH Friends



ANNUAL VOLUNTEER SALAD LUNCHEON – FRIDAY, JULY 23 FROM 11:30 UNTIL 1 IN THE KENNEDY PHARMACY.

Along with an opportunity for fellowship with your DH friends, HSF CEO **Daniel Carey**

will speak on the work HSF does and the concepts and thoughts you can present about the museum's parent organization to DH visitors. As a special for the luncheon, a new museum object will be available for volunteer viewing. You will need to attend the luncheon to find out what it is.

DOCENT TRAINING:



The DH is offering adult docent training on Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. until noon. There is room in the class if you need a refresher or if you know someone who would like to become a docent at the DH. Prospective docents who plan to attend the class are **Tiffany Miller, John Miller, Anne Hagen** (she wants a refresher), **Mimi Balanger** and **Zoë Wolff**. Training will be held in the DH meeting room on the second floor of the museum.

COLLECTIONS UPDATE:

Cornelia's Miniature - This past month, I had the opportunity to get a look at the miniature of Cornelia Davenport that our painting in the hallway is based on. It is in the possession of **Mrs. Walter "Connie" Hartridge** who is a direct descendant of Cornelia through her daughter Cornelia Augusta Davenport Jackson. I went to visit Mrs. Hartridge in her home in early June and had a very nice visit. She was a very gracious and engaging hostess. She loves Savannah and its history and we spoke at length about many of the pictures and furniture she has throughout the house. She allowed me to hold the miniature which is set in an oval frame and Mrs. Hartridge believes the image is painted on ivory. The colors are lighter than our portrait but the details are clearer. There is a ruffle down the center of Cornelia's gown



that doesn't appear in the oil painting. The miniature appears to give Cornelia more fleshiness in area around her chin.

There appears to be some sort of burgundy colored

pillow behind her that she is leaning against. Unfortunately, Mrs. Hartridge does not know who the artist was or exactly when the miniature was painted. It's possible that there may be some information on the back of the miniature but as the frame has a paper backing, it was impossible to tell. I suggested it would be a good idea to have a conservator who works with paintings and miniatures look at it. She will want to make sure that the backing is an acid-free and lignin free paper and that the glass is UV filtered. Paper made from wood products has acid and lignin in it and over time, these substances leach out of the paper damaging other materials it contacts. Light also is very destructive to painting and photographic surfaces and will eventually cause colors to fade and decay. If she chooses to have it examined and reframed there will be an opportunity to view the back of miniature to see if any information is written there. Mrs. Hartridge was unable to shed any light on why Cornelia is dressed as she is. Just know that as of now, there is no reliable documentation that explains what it is or why Cornelia is dressed as she is. I didn't photograph the miniature as I was afraid that as small as it is any detail would be lost in the glare of the glass plate covering it. Mrs. Hartridge promised that if the portrait is removed from the frame, she will let me know so that I can get pictures then.

Cornelia's Photograph? - As exciting as that was, imagine my surprise when I was contacted a few weeks ago by woman named **Cooper Bratton**. She lives in

Raleigh, NC and was planning a trip to Savannah. She wanted to visit the Davenport House because she is a direct descendant of Cornelia through Cornelia's second son, Howell Cobb Jackson. She had been going through her grandmother's things and found two miniatures – one of Henry Rootes Jackson and the other of – yes, you guessed it – Cornelia Augusta Davenport. She promised to bring images of them for me to look at when she visited. I was curious to know whether her miniature of Cornelia was identical to the one Mrs. Hartridge had or if it was different. True to her word, Mrs. Bratton visited the DH earlier this week and she presented the images as promised. To my surprise, the miniature appeared to be not a painting but an early photograph maybe even a daguerreotype. Daguerreotypes first appeared in 1839 and were quite popular by the late 1840's and early 1850's. Since Cornelia didn't die until 1853, it is quite possible that she could have sat for a photographic portrait. Although I haven't researched the presence of daguerreotype studios in Savannah, according to the Library of Congress, "By 1850, there were over 70 daguerreotype studios in New York City alone." Mrs. Bratton's miniature shows Cornelia in a similar mourning attire but her image is reversed from that in our painting and Mrs. Hartridge's miniature. Cornelia's necklace has a pendant on it but her hair and her earrings are similar. The veil over her head is different but there is that same fleshiness in her face. The similarities between the two miniatures presents an interesting question. If Mrs. Bratton's miniature is a daguerreotype, is it possible that the miniature that Mrs. Hartridge has was copied from the photo? The major differences are that the painted miniature has color in it and the images are reversed. Her attire, aside from the veil is nearly identical. Obviously, without

more information, the question is impossible to answer with confidence. Mrs. Bratton promised to look at her miniatures more closely and she indicated that she may even loan them to us for a short while so that we can examine them. She also said she would look through some of her grandmother's other effects to see if there is anything else that would shed some light on Cornelia's life. I'll be sure to let everyone know if anything turns up. JF

JUNIOR INTERPRETERS:

New class: The new JI class meets on Thursdays throughout the



summer. Welcome these fine young people to the DH:

Ashanté Coles, sophomore, Savannah High,

Ellie Darbyshire, sophomore, Savannah Country Day, **Cassidy Hatcher**, sophomore, Johnson High School, **Ashley Rauls**, senior, St. Andrews School, **Lauren Stewart**, senior, Savannah Christian, **Carlisle Ayn Williams**, junior, Savannah Christian, and **Emily Waller**, sophomore, Savannah Country Day. They will run the house giving their first tours to the public on Friday, August 6.

Veteran JIs Tour Guides: A number of veteran JIs will be giving tours during the coming weeks as volunteers. They are **Yara Rodriguez**, **Kim Stastny**, **Molly Alexander**, **Amber Adams** and **Annelise Wornat**.

STAFF DOCENTS:

- Welcome **Lindsey Deering**, who is taking **Abby Levens** place as a weekend docent. Abby will attend UGA in the fall.
- **Becca Dawson** will visit Haiti on a mission trip this summer and will work until time for college in August. She will attend Toccoa Fall College in the fall.



INTERN:

- Christiansburg, VA native **Tiffany Miller**, a 2010 graduate of SCAD's Historic Preservation program, is a volunteer interning this summer at the Davenport House. Her

work will involve docent training, maintenance inspection, collection inventory and special issues documentation (wallpaper conditions assessment for longevity).

ANNUAL MAINTENANCE REVIEW:

Throughout the summer staff will inspect the historic structure which involves looking closely at it, noting on an elevation or floor plan any changes from the previous year, photographing the site with particular attention to the areas of change, identifying the photos and compiling the information to give to the volunteer maintenance team which is engineer **Thom Hoffman** and architect **Dirk Hardison**. Volunteers and staff review the compiled information and make a follow-up inspection in September. At that time they make recommendations for the upcoming fiscal year. This process is what pushed along the masonry work on the south façade, sidewalk repairs, the accessibility upgrade, painting and window repairs.



FEAR OF THE SICKLY SEASON: YELLOW FEVER IS COMING IN OCTOBER

Planning has begun for this October's living history production focusing on the yellow fever scourge. Last year's completely revised program was highly successful and Raleigh Marcell will spend the summer adapting that show to the performers and the new season. Returning performers include **Jamal Touré, Jeff Freeman, Jody Leyva, Lauren Purcell** and **Zoë**

Wolff. Anne Hagen has signed on as a new performer. During the next two months performers will be recruited for the remaining parts.

DEATHS IN SAVANNAH

From the 1st to the 15th July, inclusive.

Fever..... 15
Lockjaw.. 2
Cholic.... 1
Cramp.... 2
Casualties. 2

Total, 21

Of the above deaths 4 were residents, and 15 non-residents: 18 males, and 3 females. Of the 15 deaths by fever, the adult residents were 2, non-residents 13.

July 22, 1820, Daily Georgian

MUSEUM BUDGET:

Museum/shop budgeting for the upcoming year takes place in the summer. Staff tries to project the expenses for programs and operations with the anticipated income. The Davenport House's income comes from visitation which includes walk-ins, trolley patrons and triple pass guests (those who visit the DH, JGLH and ALH with a ticket purchase expressly to see the three) 51%, shop sales 29%, annual giving/Friends of the Davenport House 6.8%, Special programs (Yellow Fever, walking tours, teas, Madeira, Valentine's Day weddings, Tour of Homes Trolley Back in Time) 5%, garden rentals 2%, pharmacy apartment rental 3.9%, pharmacy rental 1% and miscellaneous .5% (which includes the Wormsloe Foundation's grant for education programs). The expenses and income for the Savannah Garden Expo are budgeted separately. We know that visitors are often interested in how we keep the doors open and the answer is "they do." Most of our operating income comes from visitation, rentals and programs, which is why staff spend most of their time preparing for, training for, managing or giving programs (most particularly our daily guide tour program).

Anticipated Added Expenses:

The museum will have new expenses as we complete the current fiscal year and anticipate the next for a new copy machine lease, website redesign and design services to dovetail with Historic Savannah Foundation branding, and the wallpaper longevity initiative.

APPRECIATING OUR VOLUNTEERS:

Since we are talking money, I guess you know that the volunteer in-kind gifts our DH community contributes would add up to 2 additional employees if we had to pay them (you). If we don't say it enough, you gotta know we could not "do it" without you. Having the variety of perspectives you offer as well as passion and community spiritedness makes having a volunteer "staff" more effective from an energizing and proselytizing point of view than paid staff.

Renewing FRIENDS OF THE DAVENPORT HOUSE in June:

Mrs. Courtney K. Gaines
Southern States Educational
Foundation, Inc.
Dr. and Mrs. Leslie L. Wilkes

LOSS OF EDITH:

The museum lost a dear friend and docent recently. **Edith Johnson**, a five year volunteer at the DH, died on June 19.

WORTH MENTIONING:

-**Terrific JI:** Thank you Melissa Hinely who gave a terrific tour to Hands-On History camp participants in June.
-**Fort Stewart Public Affairs Office likes our newsletter.** We were asked to include Frontline and Marne TV staff in our email version.
-**From Jami Brantley, historian, Girl Scout First Headquarters:** "We cannot thank you enough for the wonderful tea program that you and your talented staff presented our Girl Scouts, moms and

grandmothers, etc. The girls all loved the program, but most especially they loved the gingerbread and Charlotte [**Shannon Wichers**] (not in that order of course!). Please thank your imaginative & wonderful staff for helping to create a memory which I'm sure our girls & their families will cherish for years to come. Sincerely, Jami"

- **Happy customer:** "My mother and I were blown away by the interpretation at the Isaiah Davenport House. Your attention to historical accuracy is phenomenal. It is incredible how you have paid such close attention to the probate inventory. **Claudia** did a wonderful job appealing to a wide range of audiences by telling family stories and showing hands-on didactics. Thank you so much for enriching our Savannah experience. Sincerely, Heather Hansen, Wilmington, DE, Winterthur Fellow in American Material Culture 2010"

SPOTLIGHT ON LINDSEY DEERING

Weekend docent Lindsey Deering is a rising junior at Savannah Arts Academy.



DH: How did you come to be associated with the Davenport House?

Lindsey: I was in my history class and some former JI's came and talked to us about being a docent at the Davenport House. I love history and thought it would be a good opportunity to practice speaking to the public.

DH: Are you having fun with it?

Lindsey: I really am. It gives me a chance to learn new things. Whenever I get asked a question that I don't have an answer for, I go and research it until I do have the right answer.

DH: What else do you like besides history?

Lindsey: I love music, sports and I love reading. Right now I am reading a non-fiction book on economics. It is very interesting.

DH: What instrument do you play?

Lindsey: I've been playing flute since the 5th grade but I'm also trying

to teach myself a little on the piano. I play in both the orchestra and the band at school.

DH: What kind of music do you like?

Lindsey: My favorite is classical, but I like other styles as well.

DH: What kind of sports do you play?

Lindsey: I am on the track team and swim team at school but I also like to play lacrosse in the Spring with a local club. In the fall, I play soccer in the Celtic League. I've been playing soccer all my life.

DH: Have you been keeping up with the World Cup games?

Lindsey: Well, we don't have TV so that's been kind of hard. We never have had one.

I prefer reading or being outside so I don't really miss it. I do have a computer though and I like interacting with my friends on my Facebook page.

DH: Are you from Savannah?

Lindsey: No, I was born in Wichita, but we moved to Buford, GA when I was around 3. We lived there until I was 6 or 7. We lived on a lake and I remember spending a lot of time on the boat.

DH: Where do you live now?

Lindsey: I live on Wilmington Island.

DH: Do you like it out there?

Lindsey: I love it. The ocean is more exciting than the lake was. My family has 7 boats – we have a kayak, 3 canoes, a sailboat, a jet ski and a motor boat. My Dad is building a small sailboat for my sister now.

DH: How many siblings do you have?

Lindsey: I have three – two brothers and one sister.

DH: What do you plan to do when you go to college?

Lindsey: I want to double major in something. I really want to pursue a career in music as a performer but I know it's hard to make a living as a musician so I want to have something to fall back on.

DH: So what might that be?

Lindsey: I'm thinking maybe

anthropology, economics or marine biology.

A LOOK AT THE DH GUEST

REGISTER: During the month of June 2010, the DH saw visitors from the following: 42 states, 1 U.S. territory and 12 foreign countries. Memorable US hometowns include Rodeo, CA, Talking Rock, GA, Rantoul, IL, Odon, IN, Liberal, KS, Belle Chase, LA, Port Huron, MI, Poplarville and Pascagoula, MS, Wapakoneta, OH, Atoka, OK, Tullahoma, TN and Neenah, WI. Our international visitors were from Australia, Brazil, Bermuda, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, New Zealand, and Sweden.

HOW DID THEY HEAR ABOUT US:

Tour guides (cited by name: Owens-Thomas House), guide books (cited by name: AAA and The Lonely Planet), trolley tours (cited by name: Old Town Trolley, Old Savannah Tours and Oglethorpe Tours), internet, brochure, bus tour, friend, concierge (cited by name: Days Inn, Dresser-Palmer House), map, walk by, relative, visitors center, wedding, Paula Deen, comic book, magazine, and honeymoon.

WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY:

"Very interesting and beautiful."
"Wonderful guide made it really live for us." "Fantastic guides. Thank you so much." A beautiful Federal gem." "Inspirational." "Awesome." "Amazing." "Wow." "Delightful."
"Excellent tour guide with a good sense of humor." "Awesome tour of 1820's." "Beautiful. Glad to see so much of the period it was built in." "Illuminating." "Beautiful restoration." "Very good. Well worth it." "The best!" "Appreciate the fine engineering of a master craftsman." "The tour guide is quite good." "Interesting preservation." "Fab!" "Thanks, Abby!" "Nice narration and beautiful house." "Love the AC. It's 105 outside!" "Coming back for Christmas." "Interesting, especially the wallpaper."



Hot Time Summer in the City

TIDBITS FROM SAVANNAH IN JULY 1823



For the Savannah Republican

A PARODY.

Fill up the glass to me
 "When I am gone,"
 And let my mem'ry be
 Embalm'd in wine,
 Let none but *tiplers* come
 Around my narrow home,
 Be sober none.
 Let plant the grape vine near
 "My narrow bed;"
 Emblem of what was dear,
 "Still dear though dead!"
 "Cherish its tender root,"
 Let none but drunkards' foot,
 Come near my narrow bed.

Yes, 'twas a lovely juice
 The goblet bore;
 Great was its virtue—use,
 To kill dull care:
 Sad was the fatal hour
 That tore me from its pow'r
 To drink no more.

Replenish oft the cup
 Thou drinks to me;
 Come, fill the bumper up,
 Drink and be free;
 For soon we must give over,
 And then shall all be sober
 "Eternally."

July 8, 1823. [Savannah Daily Republican](#)



From the Boston Galaxy
FASHION-- It may gratify some of our fair readers in the country, to learn that the latest articles of dress adapted by the bells of Boston, is the *Morocco Belt*. This elegant and superb appendage to the female costume of the day is very comfortable when the thermometer stands at 95. It is a strip of Morocco leather, two to four inches wide, drawn tight round the waist and buckled, not exactly in front, but a little on one side. It may be of any colour to suite the taste of the wearer; and some very neat ones are made of certain parts of worn out harnesses, after receiving a coat or two of Day & Martin's genuine blacking, laid on by the brush of an accomplished bootblack. The most fashionable buckles too, we perceive, are in the form of harness buckles. --

Farmers in the vicinity have an opportunity of turning a good account the remnants



of the girths which once encircled their working horses, and which have hitherto been through useless. Fashion and economy are, for a rarity, united.

July 12, 1823. [Savannah Daily Republican](#).

FREE PERSONS OF COLOUR

Chatham County Registered, all others are liable to confiscation and sale.

Only names of head of families -- Bing Joseph, Bryan Charity, Brown John, Ballist Betty, Amelia, John, Beard Leah, Bacon Judy, William, James, Ann Julianna, Burney Patty, Eve, Bernard, Boujotte and chil. Craig Ann, Jane and chi Chevers Voicy, Cuthbert Lucy, Dunning Tom and wife, Dolly, London, Nelly, James Peter, Maria, Justina, Dunn James, Dobbins Jane, Thomas, Early Sally, Sophia, Hannah, George, Ferguson Wm. Fedy Hagar, Favard Polly--Gibbons Sarah, Gordon Lucretia, Germa Jos., Hume Jane, Houstoun Betty, Habersham Tryfeny Maria, Hamilton Robt. Julimeau Grace, Rose and chil. Johnston Jane, John, Levett Sally, Lizzy, Lawrence Diana, LaRose Jannette, Lambert Betty, Loring Ann, Morel Ann, Rose, May Isidore, Maxwell Jane and chil Miller Amy and chil. Mirault Claudine and chil. Nunis Tom, Nusome John, Clarissa, Ross Sally, Delia, Reed Margaret, Rentz Peter, Russell Wm. Richardson Sam. Tenah Savis Phillis, Sheftall Sue. Tyson Mary and chil. Tardue Manette, Thomas Charles, Tousant Le Crose Vallois Rose, Wilson Sally, John, wife and chl. Yaya. **JOB T. BOLLES.**

July 15, 1823. [Savannah Daily Republican](#)

For Poulson's AM. Daily Advertiser.

"KEEP COOL."

When every one is complaining of the heat, his advice will surely be grateful who is confident that he is acquainted with very simple and certain method, if not of totally preventing, at least greatly mitigating, the unpleasant feelings complained of. An observance of the following rules, has, by the experience of many, proved them to be of this character, and as such are *warmly* recommended to be pursued: -- **RULE.**

- Dress must be light both in colour and weight; open and loose in texture as well as in the manner of their making.
- Never walk during the day without an umbrella, and then do not walk fast and keep as much as possible in the shade.

- Dwellings will be kept perfectly cool if the windows be closed so as to exclude the hot rays of the sun, and not opened until some time after the sun has set. In those rooms which are in constant use the windows should be bowed; independent of the exclusion of the hot air, moderate darkness is preferable to glaring light.

- The brick and stone pavements should be wet at least twice every day; early in the morning and towards sun set; the evaporation will cool the atmosphere, and temper the heat still retained by them.

- In order to sleep pleasantly, the windows of chambers must be kept entirely closed until after sun-set; then let every aperture be free to the current of the evening air.

- Cool yourself perfectly before you go to bed. Dr. Franklin says he was in the habit of sitting undressed at his window until he felt pleasant and did not think a person so doing was liable to take cold.

- He also recommends, that when the bed clothes feel disagreeable, having imbibed the moisture of the body, to shake them, or rather move them up and down without displacing them, until the air passing through the saturated filaments makes them cool and refreshing.

- If you are warm sit quiet. Most persons in their violent impatience to lower their temperatures increase them by their efforts.

- It is not advisable to check a profuse perspiration by the sudden use of fanning, sitting in what is called a draught of air or removing too much of our dress.

- Also, Be cautious in partaking of cold refreshments; the sudden alteration thus produced is in the highest degree dangerous.

- Expose yourself no more than is necessary. Use no more exertion than is absolutely required; early in the morning and in the evening there is time enough for exercise. Avoid excess in every thing.

These are homely but excellent directions. They insure not only comfort but health; they do not merely compose the body to a pleasant state; but settle the mind to its usual and regular operations. If such be the effects, *and we know them to be such*, they are valuable. **F.**

July 31, 1823. [Savannah Daily Republican](#).