



Isaiah Davenport House Volunteer Newsletter

March 2010

www.davenportmuseum.org

236-8097



STOPPED

Yesterday morning from a Negro man, a keg of Lard, the owner can have it by proving property and paying the cost, apply to



John Hubbard

Savannah Republican, 3/31/1820

Mr. Alexius Martin,

Chemist, arrived lately from Europe, wishes before leaving Savannah for Philadelphia, to make some experiments in Chemistry, of great public utility. He has composed an excellent EYE WATER, to cure almost all defects of vision, and refresh the eye weakened by assiduous study or close application to writing, or injured by external injuries, wounds, bruises, &c. The services rendered, many persons in this city affords sufficient proof, the most authentic, that he does not impose on the public. He flatters himself, that those here who have used his EYE WATER will render him justice, as to its surprising effects. Price for two bottles, \$2 to be had of P. Dupont, corner of Broughton and Drayton Streets, who will give necessary instructions for its use.

Savannah Republican, 4/6/1820

DAVENPORT HOUSE CALENDAR

Monday, March 1 from 2 to

4:30 p.m. – Docent Training Program

5 p.m. – Dress Rehearsal – Tea program

Tuesday, March 2 at 4:30 p.m.–

This Old House: Preservation Tour of the DH

Wednesday, March 3 at 10 a.m.

– *Mid-Morning Live* appearance by “tea” program performers

Thursday, March 4 at 5 p.m. –

Tea at Mrs. Davenport’s

Friday, March 5 at 5 p.m. – *Tea at Mrs. Davenport’s*

Saturday, March 6 at 4:30 p.m. – *This Old House: Preservation Tour of the DH*

Monday, March 8 at 5:30 p.m. – Volunteer training (refresher) for spring Madeira tours

Tuesday, March 10 at noon – Davenport House Committee

- 4:30 p.m. – *This Old House: Preservation Tour of the DH*

Thursday, March 11 at 5 p.m. –

Tea at Mrs. Davenport’s

Friday, March 12 at 5 p.m. –

Tea at Mrs. Davenport’s

Tuesday, March 16 at 4:30 p.m.

- *This Old House: Preservation Tour of the DH*

Wednesday, March 17 – Museum Closed/St. Paddy’s Day

Thursday, March 18 at 5 p.m. –

Tea at Mrs. Davenport’s

- 6:30 p.m. – JI meeting

(waiter training for Expo)

Friday, March 19 at 5 p.m. –

Tea at Mrs. Davenport’s

Saturday, March 20 at 4:30 p.m.

- *This Old House: Preservation Tour of the DH*

Tuesday, March 23 at 4:30 p.m.

- *This Old House: Preservation Tour of the DH*

Wednesday, March 24 at 5 p.m.

- *Tea at Mrs. Davenport’s*

Thursday, March 24 from 9 to

11:30 – Tour of Homes utilization of Kennedy Pharmacy

- 5 p.m. – *Tea at Mrs. Davenport’s*

Friday, March 25 from 5 to 9

p.m. - *Trolley Back in Time/* Tour of Homes/Madeira tour

Saturday, March 26 at 4:45 p.m.

– Tea program for a booked group

Tuesday, March 30 at 4:30 p.m.

- *This Old House: Preservation Tour of the DH*

SHOP:

- The shop is filling up with items for the spring season. See the new selection of scented lamps and jewelry which includes pendants and earrings.

- The shop now carries a line of lavender-scented bath products.

- Two new books have been added to our inventory - Savannah’s Classic Seafood by Janice Shay (the photos are yummy!) and The Savannah Walking Tour and Guidebook by Paul Bland.

BUSY SEASON:

- We expect like the *swallows returning to Capistrano* that tourists will return to Savannah in the spring. We are ready for them with programs, a good story and terrific workers. Please note what programs are taking place and when (on your day?) and let your visitors know. Docents, shop volunteers and staff are the best sales people for our programs. Visitors should know that the DH tries very hard to make after-hours programs different from our daytime experience.



- Also, please see the docent calendar and fill in where you can. Expect Dottie to call when special groups are booked.

- **This Old House: Preservation Tour of the DH** experience is offered on Tuesday and Saturday afternoons at 4:30 p.m. in March. Participants will learn how the house has been cared for through time and the efforts DH personnel put into maintaining the property. Participants go from the bottom (basement level) to the top (the attic) discussing preservation issues and solutions.

- **Tea at Mrs. Davenports** is offered on Thursday and Friday afternoons at 5 p.m. with participants taking tea with costumed interpreters. Ours is a “Jane Austen era” tea where visitors learn the role the beverage played in the daily life of people during the Davenports’ time. It is not a high Victorian era tea with scones and

strawberries . . . though that would be nice.

- **Tour of Homes:** The Davenport House is once again participating in Savannah Tour of Homes and Gardens' **Trolley Back in Time** – an evening trolley tour to memorable sites – on Friday, March 26th. At the DH, participants will experience our Madeira program. **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR THIS.**

TO PREPARE FOR SPRING MADEIRA TOURS:

The DH will have a refresher for evening Madeira tour workers on **Monday, March 8 at 5:30 p.m.** We will discuss how we will handle the **Trolley Back in Time** when the 105 people (3 shifts of 35 people) visit as part Savannah's Tour of Homes and Gardens. In addition, the DH will host Madeira tours on Thursday and Friday evenings in April and May. We hope the terrific crew who helped in the fall will return and then some. The refresher will help us all get into the frame of Madeira hospitality! Mark your calendar to attend and expect an email about it!

DOCENTS:

- Beginning March 1, **tokens** (our poker chip system) will be used to keep account of visitors on tour. Please be aware.
- For safety's sake, please slide the bolt to the back door to lock it after your tours. On occasion we find folks who have not checked in wandering around the house who have entered through the back porch door.
- Welcome **Abby Schreiber, Wilma Wheten and Autumn Johnson** to the DH. They are completing docent training and we hope they will be up and running by mid-April.

- Please note if you see anything out of place – chairs, a vacuum cleaner, a dust rag – that you let a staff member know. During this busy time we may miss an item or two that needs to be put up. Last week a chair was left in the middle of the Office and nobody said anything all day!

JUNIOR INTERPRETERS:

- There will be a JI meeting on Thursday, March 18 at 6:30 p.m. to talk about hospitality and waiter training in preparation for the Expo. Staff will also talk about the skill sets needed to work in the hospitality industry.
- **SuperMuseumSunday:** The DH had a terrific **SuperMuseumSunday** with 513 visitors seeing the site which was run by Junior Interpreters. Our guests were complimentary of our workers and their enthusiasm! Thanks to Annelise Wornat, Lindsey Braden, Melissa Hinely, Kim Stastny, Donald Smooth, Anna Hendrix, Lindsey Deering, Seema Patel, Ian Lowry, Becca Dawson, Iain Woodside (who is not a JI but was terrific none the less), Amanda Baskin and Joseph McArthur.

FEBRUARY 14TH AT THE DH: - Valentine's Day evening was memorable for 9 couples who wed under the authority of Judge Harris Lewis in our beautiful, though chilly, garden. Actually three couples recommitted to each other and 6 took their vows for the first time. One husband sprang the vow renewal on his wife when they walked into the DH at 5:30. The couple's seven year-old son was their attendant. In fact, children took part in all of the renewals – holding flowers or rings. One first-time-to-wed couple showed up in jeans and flip flops. Another bride let out

an "ole time" holler on pronouncing her wed. The last couple to say their vows brought what appeared to be 20 family members. All were joyful. See pictures on the "Davenport House Museum" fan page on Facebook.

- Many thanks to JIs who helped with the event - Melissa Hinely, Kim Stastny, Lindsey Deering, Donald Smooth and to Harris Lewis who is our judge of love!

TEA AT MRS. D'S:

- Spring means tea programs at the DH. We offer them in March and May. We hope that visitors will suspend their disbelief and feel like they are actually taking tea with people the Davenports might have known. Thankfully we have fine interpreters to do this. Jeff Freeman, Jody Levya, Jan Vach, Shannon Wichers, Zoe Wolff, Raleigh Marcell and Jamie Credle will don their 1820s attire for the show.

- Along with meeting interpreters, participants drink tea and eat Sally Lunn bread and ginger bread. As soon as she writes this Jamie will email bakers about helping with the baking detail again. This is a wonderful way to help the DH!

- Seeing a need: The tea table we used last year had a broken leg that we propped up on a box. Well, Greg Vach did not think that should do and replaced the leg. He also gave us another replacement leg in case something unforeseen happens to the newly ensconced one. What a nice man.

SAVANNAH GARDEN EXPO VOLUNTEERS:

Staff is working to fill the Expo volunteer schedule. Let Jamie



know if you can help either Friday, April 23 or Saturday, April 24.

- Helen Linskey prepared and mailed all the volunteer request letters. Others volunteered but when Helen came to the office she took all the letters . . . no problem. What a doll. We will need those who offered to send out the commitment letters in March.

BRICKS AND MORTAR:

Dawn Guest, PhD candidate, University of York found us. She is an expert on mortar. She is doing a project on Savannah 1820s structures to determine the content of their mortar. She was told by the staff at the Railroad Roundhouse Museum (they have a lot of mortar there!) that their mortar, which is very similar to ours, is "Savannah River Sand" and if we ever wanted to match it to contact the Fish and Wildlife people with the city.

DAVENPORT HOUSES:

Both Dawn and Bill Thomson noted recently that the houses at 305 W. York Street and 411 W. York (between the Jepson Center and the Court House) are purported to be built by Isaiah Davenport. These along with Laura's Cottage and the house at 124 Houston Street (lot 18 Greene Square) are the houses we can point to as possible works of Davenport.

WORTH MENTIONING:

- **Corian in the Kitchen:** On top of our new stove is a piece of corian that Pat Seguire had donated from Counter Parts, a local business. The owner dropped it by himself. Thank you, Pat and Mr. Counter Parts!

- **Pharmacy Boxwoods:** Wayne and Marilyn Sheridan donated and planted 60 boxwood shrubs

in the pharmacy patio. We are ready for a party now!

- **Nice House, Nice Man:** Hugh Golson hosted the February Davenport House Endowment Directors for an early morning meeting. His dining room table made the perfect work table for the discussion.

- **Silver:** You should see the Telfair's silver show, *The Story of Silver in Savannah: Creating and Collecting Silver Since the 18th Century*, which will open in March. A DH spoon – a "Davenport" spoon -- will be in the exhibit.

- **Madeira in February:** During the month of February 70 participants attended the DH Madeira program including a group from the First City Club and Carl Brandhorst, president, Atlantic Seaboard Wine Association. Mr. Brandhorst was formidable but seemed to enjoy himself! Linda Garner provided the program with beautiful camellias each week.

WHEN YOU ARE A CHARITY:

There are so many worthy causes that one often wonders where cultural sites fit in. We are not curing a dread disease, providing food for the homeless or easing the pain of addiction. But we are putting people to work, teaching people a valuable story as well as celebrating and preserving our tangible heritage. When you read and understand the statistics below you see what tourism does for our state in financial ways. We know people come to Savannah for its historic ambiance. That makes us special. That puts us on the map and that makes us wonderful. As you know, the DH takes care of itself for others to enjoy whether they actually cross its threshold or not. For those

who do visit, it provides a warm and caring welcome to visitors and tells the house's and preservation's story in informative and insightful ways. You help us do this good work!

Georgia's 2008 Travel & Tourism Satellite Accounts

(TSA) analysis shows that tourism generated:

- \$28.8 billion in direct sales
 - \$46 billion in total sales*
 - \$2.5 billion in state and local taxes* federal taxes 3.3 billion
 - \$20.9 billion of GDP*, 5.3% of the state economy
 - 400,000 jobs*, 9.9% of all jobs in the state
 - Tourism saved each household \$760 in state and local taxes
- *these elements include indirect & induced impacts

Hotel occupancy at a glance for the month of December:

- Occupancy was up .8% in Georgia much greater than the nationwide occupancy average—down 2.2%
- Average Daily Rate was down 6.4% - very close to the national average, which was down 6%
- Georgia demand grew by 4.6% above the national growth of 1.1%
- Revenue for the month was down 2% also above the national average, which was down by 5%

SPOTLIGHT

Becca Dawson

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

Becca: I was in Mr. McKay's 10th grade U. S. History class at Savannah Arts Academy back in November 2007. I'm known for making impulsive decisions so when he asked if any of us wanted to learn how to be a docent at the DH, I said yes.

DH: Are you originally from Savannah?



Becca: Yep, born and raised here.

DH: What is your favorite thing about the Davenport House?

Becca: I love the Morning Room. I identify with it because it really illustrates what a woman's role was in the 1820's – teaching her children, managing the household, writing letters, planning meals, mending or even making clothes for the family and servants.

DH: Has anything unusual ever happened on one of your tours?

Becca: One day last summer, one of those really dark thunderstorms came in while I was doing a tour and it was really creepy. Then one of the ladies in my group came up to me and whispered that she was a psychic and that she felt a strong presence of a man in the house. I don't know why she was whispering. It was almost as if she were afraid that the presence would overhear her. I just said "That's very interesting," and continued with the tour.

DH: You're also a tour guide with one of the carriage tour companies in the city. How did you get involved with that?

Becca: Another impulsive decision. I had never been around horses or anything like that so I thought it would be fun. I trained a lot in my free time with some of the other drivers to get familiar with handling the horses. I really like it. My Dad said he knew I was into it when he came to the stable and saw me cleaning out the horse's waste bucket. He was shocked because he said I wouldn't even clean the litter box at home.

DH: Was taking the city tour certification test difficult?

Becca: That test was the hardest test I've ever taken. I freaked out about it. I didn't study like I should have. I just crammed the night before. I was really worried but I passed the first time I took it. I had read "Savannah: A History of Her People Since 1733" (available in the DH shop) and much of the test covered infor-

mation in that book so that helped.

DH: You are also very active in your church, aren't you? In fact, you've been to Haiti as part of a church activity?

Becca: I've been to Haiti 3 times. Our church has a big mission department and has a strong relationship with Northwest Haiti Christian Mission. The church funds the work we do, but each of the volunteers has to raise their own money to pay their travel and lodging expenses. The trips are usually two weeks long.

DH: What kind of things do you do there?

Becca: One of the most challenging things we did was helping out in one of the medical clinics. I and 3 other teenage girls delivered a baby pretty much on our own. We were under the guidance of a nurse, of course, but she was busy with other patients as well. The poor woman had been in labor for 18 hours. But we do other things too. We helped build cisterns in the village of Beauchamps to gather rain for drinking water.

DH: Will go back?

Becca: I really want to. I'd like to get more involved with counseling teenagers. They don't get a lot of attentions there. In order to be able to relate to their problems and help them make good decisions, you have to learn a lot about their culture which is really interesting to me.

DH: You'll be graduating this year. Where do you plan to attend college?

Becca: I decide to go to Tacoa Falls College in northwest Georgia. It's a small school so the class sizes are smaller and you get to interact more with the instructors.

A look at the DH guest register:

During the month on February (2010), the Davenport House saw visitors from 45 states including Alaska and 6 countries. Florida, New York, Georgia and Pennsylvania were listed most often but Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Tennessee, Illinois, and Indiana were men-

tioned frequently as well. Canadians made up the largest block of international visitors but we had people from Australia, Denmark, England, Germany and Holland too. Interesting hometowns include Newville, AL, Yucaipa, CA, Florissant, CO, Portage, IN, Walkerton, IN, Sandwich, MA, Kittanning, PA, Silver Point, TN

Where They Heard About Us: Tour guides (mentioned by name: Juliette Gordon Low, Dirk Hardison, Owens-Thomas), trolley tours (mentioned by name: Old Town Trolley, Old Savannah Tours, Oglethorpe, Grayline), brochures, visitors center, internet, concierge (mentioned by name: Marriott, Kehoe House, Elderhostel, Spring Hill Suites), guidebook (mentioned by name: Fodor's, Frommer's, Lonely Planet, AAA), friend, walk by, return visit, map, bus tour, relative, Super Museum Sunday, PBS, CD tour, newspaper, magazine ad, school.

What They Had to Say: "Ten" "Excellent guide." "Lovely house." "A wonderful insight to life in 19th C. Savannah & beautifully given by guide." "Very detailed restoration." "Loved it!" "Excellent presentation, Marty." "The Very Best Tour. Extremely informative." "Well done. Enjoyed it." "Wonderful. Enjoyed the garden." "Fantastic women." "Love the history." "Learned a lot, especially about wallpaper!" "Best tour so far! Thx." "Beautiful. Enjoyed the junior tour guide." "Love the young docents. Great energy!" "Your young people bring life to the house." "Wow." "Wonderful craftsmanship." "Very helpful - staff wonderful." "Love what you do." "Really enjoyed the tour guide." "A beautiful home tour to commemorate our 2nd wedding anniversary." "Keep up the great work!" "Magnificent tour guide, Shannon. Excellent." "Tres interessant. Meublos antique. Detout & beaute." "Son of David H. Davenport of Washington, D.C." "Sensational - more than I anticipated."

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR THE DH!

Isaiah's Savannah and Cerveau's Savannah

It was a revelation when Betty Butler gave me a copy of Cerveau's Savannah because it answered the questions that I wanted to know about much of "Isaiah's Savannah." In the small volume Joseph Frederick Waring takes apart Savannah's famous city portrait and puts the city depicted into its context. Since Cerveau's Savannah is only 10 years removed from Isaiah's Savannah both the painting and the book are useful in trying to understand the world that the Davenports of the 1820s lived in in the port city. What follows are some passages which might help you figure it out as well.

Joseph Frederick Waring, Cerveau's Savannah, Savannah, GA: Georgia Historical Society. 1973.

"Savannah in 1837 was a compact little city, a mile wide along the river, about three quarters of a mile deep from the river south to Liberty Street." (Waring p. 1)

"For a few years after 1815 when the second war with England ended, there had been a brief burst of optimism. Christ Church at last dedicated its new building in 1816 and the young English architect, William Jay, completed several handsome mansions, as well as the theater, before the fire and yellow fever epidemic of 1820 plunged the city into gloom. The twenties had been a decade of struggle." (Waring, p. 5)

INTELLECTUAL LIFE

"The ambitious mercantile society of Savannah, struggled to build itself up after the fire of 1796, bursting into a brief period of prosperity between 1816 and the great fire of 1820, then slumping along rather drearily for ten years as it rebuilt its destroyed businesses and homes, had little time or concern for intellectual life. Good food, parties, a little opulence in dress and the superficial airs and graces of more so-



phisticated cities – these yes." (Waring, p.68)

POPULATION

In Georgia there were "only eight and one-half persons per square mile" except for Savannah which was urban -- "a beautiful city, with a population of more than 7,000 (half of whom were black) ". . . in touch through its port with all the rest of the world, in short a city with all the amenities of civilization; and a city too that from its very outset a hundred years before had determined to be a city. . . ." (Waring, p. 8)

It was "largest city in the state with its population of 7,723 in 1830." Augusta came in second and Macon third. As a counter point, Charleston, SC's population was 30,289. Between 1820 and 1830 . . . Savannah grew by 200 people. (Waring, p 17)

BUSY LIFE ON BAY STREET AND BULL TRAFFIC

"A man on horseback could not proceed 'faster than a canter' nor could a coach be driven 'faster than a trot.' An unloaded cart, dray or wagon might be driven at a moderate trot in all wide streets, but when loaded it must not 'proceed in a pace beyond a walk.' No driver might turn a corner or drive down narrow streets or on wharves 'other than at a walk.' (Waring, p. 6)

Sandy streets - "Savannah was a quiet city . . . every traveler noted the real reason: 'the sand, through which a pedestrian wades in navigating the streets . . . is considerable annoyance to a stranger, who fears every step of sinking to his waist.'"

BAY STREET

- On The Bay one would find shops, offices of bankers and newspapers, the hotel and its barroom.
- Cerveau's portrait shows signs and businesses on Bay as being "Bank," "Emporium," printing shop of the Savannah Georgian, "segar shop,"

Dure's – across Bull, Gaudry and Legriel's big wholesale and retail Grocery Store, Clothing Emporium of Price and Mallery, newspaper The Republican, William Thorne Williams book shop, A. R. Knapp's general store, City Hotel.
- Ladies shopped on Congress Street.

THE STRAND AND THE RIVER

"The Strand stretched the length of the bluff, about a mile long and between 200 and 300 feet wide, from the south side of Bay Street to the edge of the bluff. It is about forty feet above the river."

"Below the bluff the flat river front was divided up into wharf lots that ran from the foot of the bluff to the water line. Of the city's thirteen streets that ran southward from the Strand, eight of them extended northward directly down the bluff to the public wharves. It was not until the fifties . . . that sloping cobblestone ramps were put in and the present stone retaining walls erected." (Waring, p. 14)



EXCHANGE

"The Exchange occupied the most prominent position in the city, on the bluff at the head of Bull Street, site of the old Vendue House. After the incorporation of the City of Savannah in 1789 the seat of government where the mayor and aldermen met and official business was transacted was the old filature, the silk house, on the northeast trust lot of Reynolds Square. Apparently it survived the fire of 1796 for it continued to serve as City Hall until 1812 and was not burned down until 1839. In 1812 "the seat of government was moved from the filature to the Exchange."

Designed by Frenchman, Adrian Boucher, cornerstone laid in 1799, completed probably about 1802 "when the steeple was built."

"In this a bell and clock were installed two years later. Every night a watchman kept a lookout there to

spot fires and give the alarm. The mayor's office was on the second floor as was the Long Room for meetings of Council and for large civic affairs. At first the Post Office and Customs were on the ground floor." Name stuck for a merchant exchange that never happened. It was torn down in 1904. (Waring, p. 13)

MARKET SQUARE

"The low wooden roofs covering the stalls of the market, somewhat jammed in among surrounding buildings, appears to the west of the two big red-brick business buildings that occupy the eastern trust lots of Ellis Square—Gibbons' Range on the south, and the range later know as Waring's on the north." "The public market had been here since 1763, except for a year after the fire of 1820 when it was moved to the intersection of Barnard and South Broad (Oglethorpe Avenue), and the name of the latter street changed to Market . . . the market was back to Ellis Square in 1822. Small farmers from all over the county and even from Effingham County brought their truck into town in small wagons and camped out around the square." (Waring, p. 16)



Carts - "The weekly invasion of the market by the country folk, and even more their annual invasion with bags of cotton, were a continuing reminder that the city was, after all, completely dependent on the country."

BEAUTIFUL CITY

A visitor to the city, Miss Hathaway "found it a 'a lovely city,' she says, 'not made so by architectural beauty for there are very few houses here . . . the hotels are very ordinary structures. What constitutes its beauty is the manner in which it is laid out. There is one immensely broad avenue . . . called South Broad Street, and extending in full length of it from east to west. This is magnificently shaded by rows of china trees, which are beautiful in shape, having a rich and graceful foliage, and in the spring



of the year are full of small odorous blossoms which are said to have the fragrance of lilac.'" (Waring, p. 21)

SCAVENGER DEPARTMENT AND FILTH

"The householder was responsible for sweeping the sidewalk and for burying any dead animals, large or small, that he owned. He was expressly forbidden to leave a dead horse or dog in the streets, or goat, mule, cow or pig. He had to take it out beyond the city limits and bury it six feet deep or he could pay the scavenger to do it for him near the city dump, out by the Oglethorpe Cantonment (West Gwinnett Street today)."

"The householder was responsible for keeping his premises 'clear of putrid and stinking water and other offensive matter,' . . .

"a peck of lime in his privy once a month, May to November"

" . . . in the city each house had its own privy and often its own well just a few feet away."

"There were horses, mules, cows, in stables and on the streets; manure piles, garbage barrels, privies; flies everywhere and no screens, mosquitoes and very few mosquito nets. In 1828 the Streets and Lanes Committee of City Council reported that the streets and squares were fairly clean, but that the lanes were 'abominable and seem intended to be depositories of filth. . . . Foetid bogs and puddles are created. . . which, in the opinion of the Committee, become the contributing causes of disease.' The stench and the flies would have been unbearable to modern Savannahians." (Waring, p. 24)

SAFETY

"During the day only the City Marshall and one or two constables were on duty to keep law and order. After sundown, however, Savannah was a dark city (in this no different from most towns) and under cover of darkness incendiaries and cutthroats may lurk." (Waring, p. 27)

"People didn't go out at night very much. . . ."

" . . . Most people were early-to-bed and early-to-rise."

FIRE

"The city Watch came on duty at sundown, more or less in some kind of distinguishing uniform, armed with rattles, old-fashioned heavy muskets, and pistols. The muskets were chiefly to give the alarm for fire if it had not already been spotted by the lookout in the Exchange tower."



"But the organization of unpaid fire 'managers' and companies was very loose until after 1824 when a system of sorts was worked out under an Act of Legislature establishing the Savannah Fire Company, with twenty-one members appointed by Council of whom one was the Fire Chief. Free men of colour were required to haul the engines and man the pumps, and for their service were exempt from taxes."

"Thomas Gamble summarized the situation in 1828 showing that the fire department consisted of 'four New York built suction and discharging engines, two London built suction and discharging engines, two Boston built cooper and discharging engines, one horse cart, 1740 feet new hose, 700 feet old hose, 178 slaves, 96 free negroes, 274 buckets, 15 fire hooks, 44 ladders, 22 axes, and a white company of seventeen men.'"

SLAVES – LIVING OUT OR LIVING IN

"According to the ordinance of 1790, slaves were required to live with their owners or in a house of their owner's representative. If they 'lived out' they must obtain a ticket from the owner giving permission and specifying the place and time In fact, large numbers of Negroes 'lived out,' and a large extent were independent though the control of their movement after dark was pretty strictly enforced. Owners rented out the services of their slaves (on the docks or canal, for example) and allowed them to find shelter where they could. There was simply not enough room on most house lots to accommodate more than, say three or four servants, on

the ground floor and over the carriage house; some had many more, some none at all. As a result, the Negroes who 'lived out' tended to congregate in congested segregated areas, as in Oglethorpe Ward west of West Broad, and in the corresponding section east of East Broad." (Waring, p. 28)

"... lived in lanes behind the mansions and double tenements and row-houses . . ."

"As the population counts show, white and blacks were pretty equally divided in most wards. Unless there was a row going on the night watchman tended to ignore the lanes where life was relaxed and independent, a comfortable arrangement, but potentially dangerous." (Waring, p. 28)

"Slavery may have been the source to wealth and, for those who could afford house servants, of the comforts of life, but not the least part of the price paid for this institution was a daily, continuous undercurrent of fear. Who could tell really what was going on behind those 'happy' black masks?" (Waring, p. 29)

"Savannah already had an ordinance forbidding any kind of assembly of Negroes even for religious worship "or the pretense of religious worship." except on Sunday and then only between the hours of ten in the morning and five in the afternoon." (Waring, p. 30)

"In the view of Savannah's apprehensive state of mind it is not surprising to find that the very colorful five militia companies were regarded as something much more important than as clubs for the young elite and a source of brilliant spectacle on parade days." (Waring, p. 30)

YAMACRAW



"Behind them (at the end of Bay Street) running westward down to the canal and northward to the river in the notorious section known as Yamacraw (where once Tomochichi had lived peacefully with his small tribe) were a filthy congeries of hovels,

saloons, bawdy houses, and cheap lodgings for sailors, a section in which were huddled the slaves whose masters allowed them to live out the newly arrived foreigners seeking work on the docks or in building the new railroad." (Waring, p. 45)

CANALS

"In 1825 Governor George M. Troup was promoting internal improvements in Georgia, particularly a system of canals." But was convinced shortly thereafter by an associate who had visited England that railroads were going to supersede canal as a mode of transportation inland. (Waring, p. 49)

"But though the State was fortunate in not committing itself to canal building, private enterprise in Savannah with enthusiastic support of the City did undertake the construction of the Savannah, Ogeechee, and Altamaha Canal. It was a failure from the beginning to the end, alternately falling into decay and then being rebuilt, but the basic idea was certainly sound—to bring to the port the rice and cotton and timber of the productive acreage of western Georgia." (Waring, p. 49)

CHURCHES

- Christ Church – building begun 1801, finally finished in 1816 (Waring, p. 57)

- Presbyterians – "After Christ Church, the second strongest church in town, if not always in numbers certainly in the influence of it conservative and affluent congregation, was the Independent Presbyterian. It had been organized in 1755 . . . building Market Square . . . northeast trust lot . . . destroyed by fire . . . St. James Square. In the hurricane of 1804 it lost its steeple but the congregation at least had a place to worship until the magnificent edifice on Bull Street, designed by Rhode Island architect, John Holden Greene, was completed in 1819, under the leadership of the great, divine, Dr.



Henry Kollock, who died a few months later. The glorious steeple rises nearly two hundred feet."

- Jews – chartered 1790 – did not have a synagogue until 1815, a simple building on the northeast corner of Liberty and Whitaker, at that time virtually in the woods.

- Roman Catholics – 1790

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION

"The tall cupola of the central block of the Chatham Academy on South Broad Street shows very clearly in the picture a little to the east of Bull Street and opposite Judge Wayne's house, where in 1837 Mr. W. W. Gordon lived. The Academy had been chartered in 1788 but there was no building for it until 1813 when the whole block from Bull to Drayton was used, the center building and east wing by the Academy and the west wing by the Union Society. The Academy as a semi-private institution (it had some endowment and charged small fees) had a long and honorable life as a preparatory school . . . (Waring, p. 63)

"The only genuinely free school was the Savannah Free School, a charity privately subsidized, managed by a board of benevolent ladies and gentlemen, and intended to provide at least the rudiments of learning to the children of the poor who could not afford either the Chatham Academy or the numerous small private schools that sprang up from time to time. Half a dozen or more of such schools were usually in operation every year, often started by ambitious young teachers who had been employed by the Academy but hoped to do better on their own. The Savannah Free School was chartered in 1817 and did a noble work for years, but could not, of course cope with the need, and the number of white illiterates in the city must have been great. Blacks by law were not taught to read and write though a few surreptitiously managed to circumvent the law. (Waring, p. 63)

