



Isaiah Davenport House Volunteer Newsletter



May 2010

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236-8097

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On Thursday last a seaman on board the Br ship Three Sisters, jumped overboard in a fit of insanity, and was drowned.

Savannah Republican, May 15, 1824,

[Communicated for the Republican]
 The Annual Examination of the children belonging to the Savannah Free School; took place on Thursday last. —To say that we were gratified, is an expression too tame and inadequate to the admiration, which that institution can not fail to excite. — One hundred and eighty odd children were present, and the advancement made in the rudiments of Grammar, Arithmetic, Geography, &c. was truly surprising, and speaks volumes in favor of the system which is there pursued—There were several so well grounded in the first principles of an English education, as to fit them for some of the higher occupations of life—indeed we are told, this school has already turned out several children, so far advanced as to admit them into Counting Houses—Too much cannot be said in favor of it—the extension of its power—and the very small fund required to ensure its progression—Yet small as this sum is with grief we learn, that with the utmost exertions, it is annually dwindling away, from the withdrawal of its original supporters; and as no assistance has as yet been obtained from the state of Georgia, its existence for any length of years appears doubtful; we most sincerely trust that those who can afford — (and there are few who cannot) will add their little to that fund which procures the means of raising children of the indigent, beyond the reach of charity, making them in their turn the bestowers of Heavens bounty. W.

Savannah Republican, May 17, 1824.

DAVENPORT HOUSE CALENDAR:
 Saturday, May 1 at 7:30 a.m. —
Early Bird's Walking Tour of

the City Isaiah Knew: Discovering 1820s Savannah
 - 12 to 2 p.m. in the Kennedy Pharmacy — Preservation Month Poster Competition Exhibit
 - 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. — Garden Wedding Rental
Sunday, May 2 from 5 to 7 p.m. — Spring Garden Party
Tuesday, May 4 at Kennedy Pharmacy from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. — HSF special property use
Wednesday, May 5 in the Kennedy Pharmacy — Preservation Month Poster Competition Exhibit
 - 4:30 p.m. — *Curator's Tour and Highlights of the Collection* tour
Thursday, May 6 at 4:30 p.m. — *Tea in the Garden* program
 - 6:30 p.m. — Madeira program
Friday, May 7 at 9 a.m. — Garden planting of pots and parterre
Saturday, May 8 at 7:30 a.m. — *Early Bird's Walking Tour of the City Isaiah Knew: Discovering 1820s Savannah*
 - 4:30 to 6:30 — Mother and Daughter *Tea at Mrs. Davenport's* (Girl Scouts)
 - 7 p.m. — Garden Wedding Rental
Tuesday, May 11 — DH Honored in Atlanta with a Governor's Humanities Award
 - 6 p.m. — Downtown Neighborhood Association Annual Picnic
Wednesday, May 12 at 4:30 p.m. — *Curator's Tour and Highlights of the Collection* tour
Thursday, May 13 at 4:30 p.m. — *Tea in the Garden* program
 - 6:30 p.m. — Madeira program
Friday, May 14 from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. at Kennedy Pharmacy — Rental (SCAD Metals and Jewelry Department Show and Sale)
 - 6:30 p.m. — Madeira program
Saturday, May 15 at 7:30 p.m. — *Early Bird's Walking Tour of the City Isaiah Knew: Discovering 1820s Savannah*

- 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. at Kennedy Pharmacy - Rental (SCAD Metals and Jewelry Department Show and Sale)
 - 4 to 10 p.m. — Garden wedding
Monday, May 17 at 6:30 p.m. — Orientation for Summer Junior Interpreter Program
Tuesday, May 18 at 6:30 p.m. — Monthly Junior Interpreter Meeting
Wednesday, May 19 at 4:30 p.m. — *Curator's Tour and Highlights of the Collection* tour
Thursday, May 20 at 5:30 p.m. — *Tea in the Garden* program
 - 6:30 p.m. in the Kennedy Pharmacy — Preservation Month Lecture
Friday, May 21 at 5:30 p.m. — *Tea in the Garden* program
Saturday, May 22 at 7:30 a.m. — *Early Bird's Walking Tour of the City Isaiah Knew: Discovering 1820s Savannah*
Wednesday, May 26 at 4:30 p.m. — *Curator's Tour and Highlights of the Collection* tour
Thursday, May 27 at 5:30 p.m. — *Tea in the Garden* program
Friday, May 28 at 5:30 p.m. — *Tea in the Garden* program
Saturday, May 29 at 7:30 a.m. — *Early Bird's Walking Tour of the City Isaiah Knew: Discovering 1820s Savannah*

BUSY SEASON CONTINUES:
TOURS AND FOOD PREPARATION WHICH WILL NEED ATTENTION:



Upcoming Tours in addition to the Monthly Calendar:
 Thursday, May 6 at 10 a.m. (Elderhostel) and 12:30 p.m. (AAA of Dayton, OH) — two groups in need of docent
 Saturday, May 8 at 10:30 a.m. — group of French students
 Tuesday, May 11 at 3:45 (Premier Travel)
Madeira Evening Tours needing assistance:
 Thursday, May 6 — need one docent

Thursday, May 13 – need one server and three docents
Friday, May 14 – need two servers and two docents



FOOD PREPARERS:

For the tea program: We need Sally Lunn Bread and ginger bread on Thursday, May 6, SATURDAY, MAY 8! (50 Girl Scouts and their mothers!!!!), Thursday, May 13, Thursday, May 20, Friday, May 21, Thursday, May 27 and Friday, May 28. Call or email Jamie if you can help use out!!!!

SHOP NEWS:

- Great Houses of the South by Laurie Ossman and photos by Steven Brooke is available in the shop for \$55. The book was published by Rizzoli and features the DH and Owens-Thomas House. They are in the company of Colonial Williamsburg's Governor's Palace, Drayton Hall, Monticello, Nathaniel Russell House, The Hermitage, Longwood and Biltmore.

- We have received a new shipment of tea sets.

- Shop assistant Jody Leyva will marry Ray Christie on May 15.

DOCENT NEWS:

- **Busy season reminder:** Please remember to wait until your entire group has assembled before beginning to talk. Some groups are still filing up the stairs when the docent begins talking in the Office.

Myths of the Month:

There are no living descendants of the Davenport family. Not so, there are living descendants in Savannah as well as other places. We know of none with the "Davenport" surname.

- Please do not say what order people bathed: Oldest to youngest, cleanest to dirtiest, smartest to silliest. We simply do not know this and do not want it said.



SUMMER JUNIOR INTERPRETER ORIENTATION:

There will be orientation for the summer JI program on Monday, May 17 at 6:30 p.m. The program is open on high school age students. During the summer JIs will meet on Thursday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. beginning June 17. By August successful candidates will be full-fledged tour guides at the museum.

- JIS MEETING – Wednesday, May 20 at 6:30 p.m.

The May JI meeting will be on May 20 when the group will finish the historic preservation walk started at the April meeting. They will talk about summer programming and celebrate the graduating seniors

- DH'S GRADUATING SENIORS

We are proud of our graduating seniors and wish them success in their college careers. They are Abby Levens who will attend college in Hartford, CT, Becca Dawson who will attend Tacoa Falls College, Joseph McArthur who will attend AASU and Ian Lowry who will attend Mercer University.

DONATIONS TO FRIENDS OF THE DH IN APRIL:

Emily Amburgey-Pidgeon
Mr. and Mrs. Curtis G. Anderson
Karen Cassard
Mr. and Mrs. Paul W. Collin
Connie and Glenn Darbyshire
Joan M. Davenport
Cornelia R. Groves
Lynn Hadwin
Diane and Ervin Houston
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Hungerpiller
Chris Johnson
Carolyn M. Luck
Catherine M. Lamb
Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Levy
Frances MacLean
Rod and Trish McLeod
Mrs. C. Henry Monsees
Alvin Neely
Ann Quinn
Mary Helen Ray
Miriam L. Seigel
Mrs. John Simpson
Roger Smith
Dr. and Mrs. Roland S. Summers
Polly and John Tucker
Mr. and Mrs. Richard D. Williams
Zelda Tenenbaum

Correction: The donation from Mrs. Bernard F. Williams is dedicated to Mrs. Celia Dunn.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

(These gifts will be directed to Garden Maintenance Projects)

In memory of **Carroll S. Credle, Jr.**

Roslyn Brown
Carol Jennings
Chris Johnson
Ann Koontz
Marilyn Sheridan

In memory of **Florence DuBois**
Jamie Credle and Raleigh Marcell

Lib Yingling

MAY GARDEN PLANTING:



Volunteers will plant garden pots and the parterre on Friday, May 7 at 9 a.m. Love to see you. At that time, Raleigh will also plant angelonia in the two niches at the front of the house.

SAVANNAH GARDEN EXPO 2010:

Thank you all DH folks who helped out with the Expo – both attending and working. JIs were a fine help. Anna Hendrix, Leah Wade, Donald Smooth, Mollie Alexander and Lindsey Braden served at the Preview party. Mollie, Lindsey Deering, Melissa Hinely, Ian Lowry, Irving Johnson, Joseph McArthur, Seema Patel, Leah Wade, Taylor Woods and Donald Woods helped with the event. Mollie, Melissa, Joseph, Ian and Donald did a terrific job helping with the clean up. Bill Stuebe helped with set up. The following DH volunteers were a terrific help: Sue and Dick Bordenkircher, Judy Crisp, Jeff Eley, Claudette Engvall, Kay Gardner, Karen Halloran, Jim Janson, Kim Iocovizzi and the Boy Scouts, Helen Johnson, Ann Koontz, Helen and Bill Linskey, Mary Jane and Bill Mataxas, Linda Meyer, Ann Quinn, Maria Sanchez, Jacqueline Sirlin and Marilyn Sheridan, and Barbara Schulz. We are grateful to you.

MAY PROGRAMS:

During our last gasp of spring, the museum will be busy with programs which will bring participants interested in the story it has to tell. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU LET YOUR VISITORS KNOW THESE PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE.

- **TEA AND GARDEN** – On some Thursdays and Fridays in May the museum will present its tea program in the garden . . . al fresco! The dates are Thursday, May 6 – at 4:30, Thursday, May 13 - at 4:30, Thursday, May 20 at 5:30, Friday, May 21 at 5:30, Thursday, May 27 at 5:30 and Friday, May 28 at 5:30. Costumed performers will include Jan Vach, Shannon Wichers, Jody Levya, Jeff Freeman, Raleigh Marcell and Jamie Credle.

We will need baking done for this program!

- **CURATOR'S TOUR** – Jeff Freeman will present his “Highlights of the Collections” program on Wednesdays in May at 4:30 p.m.

- **EARLY BIRD'S WALKING TOUR OF THE CITY ISAIAH KNEW: DISCOVERING 1820S SAVANNAH:**

This new tour is offered on Saturday mornings at 7:30 a.m. in May. The museum received wonderful publicity for the program thanks to Savannah Morning News – Chuck Mobley and Steve Bisson.

AFTER-HOURS MADEIRA TOURS:

The top of the newsletter notes the needs we have to complete our first spring of Madeira tours. There are four dates in May to complete the series. It has been a big undertaking and we are grateful to the volunteers and staff who are making these important tours happen. Thanks to De Gassman, Marcy Brennan, Karen Halloran, Marty Barnes, Pat Fraker, Pat Seguire, Beth Wichers, Dirk Hardison, Raleigh Marcell, Jody Levya, Ben Head and Jeff Freeman

LEADERSHIP:

DAVENPORT HOUSE

ENDOWMENT

DIRECTORS:

At the April 29th meeting Davenport House Endowment Directors said thank you to Paul Pressly who ably served as a Director for four years including three years as chairman. He served an extra year to provide continuity of leadership. On completing his tenure he welcomed Reed Dulany III who will take his place with the Directors. Also at the meeting, Hugh Golson was elected chairman of the Directors, who meet quarterly. The Davenport House Endowment Directors guard the museum's investments and own the Kennedy Pharmacy.

DH TO BE RECOGNIZED BY THE GOVERNOR

On May 11 the Davenport House Museum will receive a **Governor's Award in the Humanities** from Governor Sonny Perdue. Please read the below and be proud.

DAVENPORT HOUSE MUSEUM

Since 1955, the Davenport House Museum, of Savannah, has served as a model for preservation, museum interpretive practices and education programming. In addition, the campaign to save the Davenport House inspired the creation of the Historic Savannah Foundation, which has helped to sustain Savannah's unique ethic of preservation which communities across Georgia and beyond have subsequently emulated. The Federal-style of a merchant/craftsman, the Davenport House has been carefully restored and authentically interpreted. Its staff, docents, and other volunteers use the home as a stage for a variety of programs about life in 19th-Century Georgia which attract thousands of visitors annually. In addition, the House and its programming have inspired the raising of an endowment, to



ensure that the structure and its programming will be offered to future generations.

Governor and Mrs. Sonny Perdue
And the Board of Directors
of the Georgia Humanities Council

Cordially invite you to attend the
25th Governor's Awards

And the Annual Humanities
Lecture

By Jim Leach, Chairman of the
National Endowment for the
Humanities

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Old Georgia Railroad Depot
Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive at
Central Avenue, Atlanta

Lecture: 10:30 a.m.

Luncheon: 12:00 Noon

Tickets required for the luncheon.
The 25th Governor's Awards in the
Humanities

will be presented to:

Ms. Carmen Lombarero Bernal,
Buford

Mrs. Deborah Ann Sieg Bowen,
Blackshear

Ms. Mary Ellen Brooks, Athens

Ms. Rita Folse Elliot, Rincon

Mrs. Robynn Holland, Locust
Grove

Ms. Lucy Cline Huie, Jonesboro

Ms. Ellie Loudermilk, Perry

The Davenport House Museum, Sa-
vannah

Funk Heritage Center of Reinhardt
College, Waleska

McIntosh County Shouters, Bolden

DH Spotlight

ANTHONY SANCHEZ

As of May 30, Anthony
will concentrate full
time on his music performance
studies at AASU. We will miss
him as a weekend docent.

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

Anthony: In 2004 I was a
homeschooled high school sopho-
more. I took part in the Junior
Interpreter program. Surprisingly,
I was the only male in an all-



female group that year. But it was a great experience.

DH: What professions did you or do you have outside of the DH?

Anthony: I am in my third year of college at Armstrong Atlantic State University, where I am studying music and piano performance. I belong to the University Chorale and sing in my church.

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

Anthony: I love history, especially when new information about the Davenport House or its residents is uncovered. I have enjoyed the "Dreadful Pestilence" program about the Yellow Fever epidemic, as well as all of the other educational interpretation programs in the six years that I have worked at the DH.

DH: What's the most unusual thing that has ever happened to you at the DH?

Anthony: A few years ago, I had a French couple on my last tour for the day. All went well until I noticed that the lady was clutching her stomach. It was difficult to communicate because of the language barrier; her husband was her translator. She was having a diabetic attack. Luckily, I had some mints and offered some to them. Also fortunate was the fact that they were the only two people on my tour.

DH: What made you decide to become a docent at the Davenport House?

Anthony: After I volunteered as a JI, a position opened to become a Docent on Sundays. I've been working since then.

DH: What do you love most about the Davenport House?

Anthony: I particularly love the various artifacts, especially the ones that became part of the museum when I started working here, such as Mrs. Davenport's silhouette and the huge map in Mr. Davenport's Office.

DH: How long have you been in Savannah and where are you from originally?

Anthony: My parents were in the military, both from Puerto Rico, and I was born in Kansas. I have been in Savannah for ten years.

DH: Where else have you lived and what is your favorite?

Anthony: I have lived in Germany, New York and New Jersey. I love NYC because I can still remember the experience I had at school.

DH: What is your favorite season in Savannah and why?

Anthony: Winter, because there is a little break from the hot summer and unusually warm autumn.

DH: What is your favorite thing to do in Savannah (besides being a docent at the DH)?

Anthony: I like to go to concerts at the Lucas Theater, attend the vast festivals at Forsyth Park, and Leopold's ice cream.

A look at the DH guest register:

During the month of April (2010), the Davenport House saw visitors from coast to coast and from 9 different countries - Australia, Canada (including Prince Edward Island), Denmark, England, France, Hungary, Ireland, Israel and Scotland. Some interesting hometowns include Muscle Shoals, AL, Walnut, CA, Pocatello, ID, Osterville, MA, Henrietta, NJ, East Aurora, NY, Marblehead, OH, Circleville, OH, Sevierville, TN, Commerce, MI, Bushwood, IN.

Where They Heard About Us:

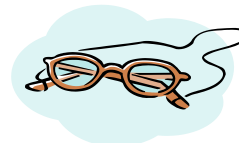
Tour Guides (cited by name: Andrew Low House, Ghost Tour, Carriage Tour), Guide Books (cited by name: AAA, Fodor's, Lonely Planet, Frommer's), Trolley Tours (cited by name: Old Town Trolley, Oglethorpe, Old Savannah, Grayline), Brochures, Walk Bys, Visitor Center, Internet, Concierge (cited by name: Marriott, Avia, DeSoto, Inn at Ellis Square, 1895 Inn,

Kehoe House), Relative, Friend, Return Visit, Resident, Map, Class, Book, Chamber of Commerce, Girl Scouts, Colonial Dames, History Book, Preservation Book, HSF, Newspaper and TV.

What They Had To Say

"Very interesting. Tour guide talked too fast." "Beautiful restoration." "Very tranquil." "Very informative. The house is gorgeous." "When can we move in?" "Excellent tour guide." "Fantastic tour and information." "Jan was great." "Great tour. Amazing time in American history." "Fantastic tour. Lots of great info." "Enjoyable and educational." "Super." "Very good job preserving history!" "Very interesting architectural styles and methods for time period." "Extremely well done tour." "Loved home and tour guide Diane." "Most interesting." "Wonderful restoration. We enjoyed it." "Great historic details." "Very funny guide. She was great." "Betty was a delight." "Thanks to the volunteers." "Claudette was great and informative." "Helen was great." "Beautiful wall paper." "Becca was an awesome guide." "Becca gives a very informative and delightful tour." "Very interesting. Tour guide talked too fast." "Great tour guide, Oleysa." "Anthony was very knowledgeable and informative." "Thank you for preserving properties like these for future generations." "Ann Koontz was delightful."

- Oh Yeah! Thanks to Claudia Mille for running off the new photos for the kitchen's new volunteer photo board!



What We Learn When We Stroll By: *Walking Tour Discovering 1820s Savannah*



Putting together the new tour **Early Bird's Walking Tour of the City Isaiah Knew: Discovering 1820s Savannah** got us "out the house" and thinking about the steps beyond the corner of State and Habersham Street that Isaiah Davenport tread. It is useful for "Davenport-ites" to see what is left from the time (1808 to 1827) when Davenport lived in the city. A good deal remains. Along with what are arguably the port city's most important structures — Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace, Owens-Thomas House, Scarborough House and Telfair Academy, significant Federal-era residences including the Mongin House and the Hampton-Lillibridge House, cottages which remind us of the earliest days of the Georgia colony, a few commercial buildings and the exceptional city plan survive. During the tour, which will take place on Saturday mornings in May at 7:30, participants will pass by more than 44 related structures on the 2.5 mile trek.

Most of the walk will concentrate on the east side of the Landmark Historic District where Davenport owned his home and business properties. Of course, we know about his association with the DH, but he also owned the neighboring lot (Lot 14) at the time of his death. He leased it and built a house on it early in his residence in Savannah. Davenport's mother-in-law, Susannah Clark, lived at **517 E. York Street** on Greene Square. At

the time of Davenport's death he owned **#20 Carpenter's Row** and **½ Wharf Lot 4**. He also owned **Lot 8 in Washington Ward** at the corner of Bay and South Broad, which the Mulberry Inn now occupies. Because of their proximity to the river, it is reasonable to assume that the Carpenter's Row lot, the wharf lot and the Washington Ward lot were associated with his construction business. Bay Street, or as it was then known as *The Bay*, was a hustling commercial street and Davenport must have spent time there as well as on *The Strand* which ran along the river. One source says that *The Bay* was a rough, masculine thoroughfare with drays loaded with cotton pulled by horses or oxen through the sandy street. The source says men plied *The Bay* while women would shop on Congress. The building which now houses *The Lady and Sons Restaurant* was the "shopping center" of the 1820s and was called **Gibbons Range**, named for Thomas Gibbons who owned the property. Decker Ward must have been ripe with activity with **Gibbons Range** and the **City Market** located there. The Davenports attended church at the newly constructed **Independent Presbyterian Church**. While an alderman he saw to city affairs in *The Exchange*, which contained the Mayor's office and Council Chambers, among other offices. This impressive structure, which fronted seventy-five feet on Bay Street and contained a bell tower for alerting the populace,

was torn down to make way for the new City Hall early in the 20th century. Mr. Davenport, his brother Samuel and the three Davenport children, who died before 1820, were laid to rest in the "burying ground" on West Broad, the tree lined street that was also referred to as "Under the Trees" and that we now call Oglethorpe Avenue.

The tour will venture by five properties that are attributed to Davenport as well as lots, buildings and sites which are associated with him. In addition to Lots 13 and 14 on Columbia Square, there is **Laura's Cottage at 420 East State Street**, which was moved in the 20th century from a corner on Greene Square (Lot 18) now occupied by a parking lot. It was originally called the **Hannah Houston House**. A note in Susan M. Mays' research on Davenport states it was "blt. for Isaiah Davenport, 1814-16." Occupying the largest portion of **Lot 18 (NE Trust Lot, Greene Square)** is a house identified as the **Isaiah Davenport House**. No additional information is known about it with regard to Davenport. Newly discovered – at least by us – is the attribution of the **Frederick Selleck House** (a double house) at **305-311 West York Street** to Davenport. Viewing the **Selleck House** is the reason the tour is as long as it is — the location is two blocks west of the **Jepson Center** and across **York Street** from the **Robert Robinson Parking Garage**.



Taking time to walk through the old city, participants will be able to look at the landscape and architecture in a more deliberate fashion than if they were driving by. Some of the views will give them a sense of “being back then.” A particularly illustrative sight is all the weatherboard houses that “Isaiah would have known” on Warren Square. Seeing the abundance of remaining early 19th century wooden structures on Warren and Washington Squares gives one an idea of what was lost in the devastation of the 1820 fire which destroyed 460 buildings in areas to the west. On Reynolds Square viewing the James Habersham House (Olde Pink House) and the Oliver Sturges House side-by-side helps one more easily distinguish between the substantial Georgian architecture and vertically of the Federal period. It is particular fun to see Federal-era buildings pop up in places that would seem to lack early architecture such as Johnson Square (see the Ann Hamilton House – 24-26 East Bryan) and Bay Street. Few probably realized that Moon River Brewery was originally the City Hotel or know that it is speculated to be a William Jay design?! As we turn up Whitaker Street, the group will be reminded of the bustle of the seaport as they look at the stone side of Kevin Barry’s watering hole which was built in 1818 “to accommodate the vast increase in cotton exports to Liverpool after Eli Whitney’s cotton gin went into use.”

Passing through 8 of the 15 squares extant at the time,

strollers will speculate on daily life – of sanitation, of public safety as well as of the underlying sense of anxiety of a community where half lived in servitude in ostensibly integrated neighborhoods. While only a quarter of the size of her sister city Charleston, the 7,000 residents of Savannah lived “city life” in a planned urban environment. Imagine living on the edge of the continent in a city bookended by rice fields and two storied neighborhoods - Old Fort on the East and Yamacraw on the west. Savannahians were isolated yet they had access to the wider world through the port. While future residents would look to the west, most residents at this time looked to the east – to the sea, to the other port cities up the eastern coast and to Europe, where hewn timbers, rice and cotton could be sold. As a man of business who imported materials, Davenport would have been occupied with the momentum of the city and the riverfront. Through his estate inventory we know he surrounded himself with all the trappings of success – a sofa, side board and “fine china tea set.” He was primarily a working man who would do what was necessary to earn a living. Records show he enclosed squares, hung shutters, made repairs, laid oyster shells “under ave. of trees on Bay,” hauled sand and built a wharf on West Broad Street.

If we could end the tour with a certain house, Jamie would choose to end it in front of the Archibald Smith House on East Broad Street. It is a sweet, two-story, central hall Federal-

style house set away from the street and was built 8 to 10 years after the Davenport House. Yet, it is in the Federal style indicating that while the style may have been going out of fashion in other places, people of means continued to employ it and be comfortable with it in Savannah. With a few grand exceptions, the Federal style was Savannah-style through the 1820s. Being a maverick in taste was the expectation in Savannah. At this time Savannah was similar to New England towns with the popularity of weatherboard boxes with central hall or side halls. This appearance must have spoken to a sense of *home*. At the same time, Davenport, whose house is in the conservative Federal style, was knowledgeable of the next wave of fashion as he employed Neo-Classical elements throughout his main floor interiors. And, he was evolving as a builder as he employed new building materials such as the iron rods which stabilize his handsome staircase.

The new walking tour actually ends with a stunning view of the Davenport House as the group walks from the south on Habersham Street. Seeing the house from this vantage point after walking by what remains from the 1820s, we recognize anew that Davenport was making a statement with his large brick home. It was a catalog of the craftsmanship he could do for you – his customer. The man was a marketer living in his own advertising tool – not unlike contractors today. His house says, “I will employ the finest materials -- brick,

brownstone, iron work -- and I can obtain them from elsewhere if they are not available here. I will build you a fine home like the one I built for my own family." While not monumental, his is a substantial house which spoke and speaks to a sense of home in the port city.

SOURCES/RESOURCES:

Primary research conducted by Susan Mason Mays on Isaiah Davenport's biography. 1991. Transcription. J. F. Waring. Curveau's Savannah. 1973. Schedule of Lafayette's visit – March 20-22, 1825. Savannah Republican. 1825. On America's Jubilee in Savannah, July 6 1826. Savannah Republican. Notes and Documents: Charles Seton Henry Hardee's Recollection of Old Savannah Edited by Martha Gallaudet Waring. GHQ, 12(4) – 1928 and 13(1) Illustrations of architectural styles, The Old House Journal, July/August 1996 Map: Plan of the City of Savannah in Chatham County, State of Georgia. 1813 Map: Plan of the City and Harbour of Savannah in Chatham County, State of Georgia. A.D. 1818 "Davenport House." Walter C. Hartridge Collection, Georgia Historical Society. NAHRGIS. Website Historic Savannah: A Survey of Significant Build-

ings in the Historic Districts of Savannah, GA. Third Edition.

Roulhac Toledano. The National Trust Guide to Savannah. 1997.

What we know:

Lot 14 on Columbia Square
June 19, 1809 – Edward Stebbins leased to Isaiah for 7 years Lot 14 Columbia Ward "and whereas the said Isaiah Davenport both erected certain buildings on the said lot consisting of a dwelling house and certain outbuildings . . ." released from the lease for \$2,500.00 bargained and sold unto Edward the said buildings on the said lot "erected and being consisting of a two story dwelling house and sundry outbuildings." (Ward Notebook, GHS)

517 E. York Street

History: The lot on which this house stands was bought in 1799 by Joseph Tippin who two years later sold it to Susannah Rosamond Clarke, widow of Archibald Campbell Clarke, who with her daughter and namesake had moved from Beaufort, South Carolina, to Savannah. It was from this house on March 15, 1809, that Sarah Rosamond Clarke, age 20, was married to Isaiah Davenport, Savannah's noted master builder who had come down from Rhode Island 2 years before to ply his trade. This house is one of several in Greene Ward that have been restored by Mrs. Lindsey P. Henderson. (Greene Ward notebook, HSF)

No. 20 Carpenter's Row
TAX COLLECTOR'S SALE

On the first Tuesday in June next will be sold before the Court House in the city of Savannah between the usual hours, the following property, or so much t here of as will satisfy the tax for 1828: No. 20, Carpenter's Row, Trustee's Gardens bounded west by East Broad Street, north by Lot No 11, east by Lot No. 21, and south by Lot No. 22 – levied on as the property of the estate of Isaiah Davenport, to satisfy the State and County Tax for the year 1828 – Amount due \$12.11 and coats.

DAVID BELL, T.C.C.C." (Savannah Georgian. 5/4/1829)

½ Lot 4 – Trustee Garden – Wharf Lot 8

Abraham Richard of NY to ID - April 2, 1822 \$9,200 North of Fort Wayne beginning and ending at a wall reserving road to ferry wharf. (Deed)

What we will not see: Houses attributed to Davenport that are no longer standing:

- James John McHenry House – 2 West.State
- John McQueen House – Warren Square
- John Elliot House – E. State Street (Anson Ward)
- Williamson House - Montgomery and State
- Geo. R. Gilmer House

