



Isaiah Davenport House Volunteer Newsletter

November 2009

www.davenportmuseum.org

236-8097



AMUSEMENT OF THE TURF.

A STAKE of Two Thousand Dollars will be run for over the Savannah Course, on Thursday, the 11th instant at 12 o'clock. Mile heats three in five,
 Major McCall's bay g. Chatham
 Mr. Mongin's bay g. Bonaparte,
 Mr. Sumner's by g. Bunkum.
 Mr. Porthress' by m. Dash

The following day will be run for mile heats, an elegant saddle, bridle, martingale and collar.

TOLL AT THE GATE.

Four wheel Carriage,	\$2.00
Two wheel ditto,	1.00
Footman,	.50

The Second Day half price.
 Members of the Club gratis.
 A Booth for the exclusive accommodation of the club and friends.



THE PROPRIETOR.

nov 9 a 221
 November 11, 1819, Savannah Republican.

NUISANCE!

A very large proportion of the attendants at the Presbyterian church are unable to deport an *elegant equipage*, on the Sabbath and as those whose modesty or poverty incline or compel them to walk to church, are seriously annoyed by the carriages which are paraded there, it is earnestly recommended that they observe the following directions, viz:

Those who have to go in a western direction, to drive in the rear of Mr. Henry's and Mrs. Gardner's houses.
Those who have to go to the eastward, to drive in the rear of the Academy.

By pursuing this method, the lives of children and others will be less endangered—they will be less annoyed by the clouds of dust created, and hence have a better opportunity of *seeing* and of *being seen*.

November 20, 1819,
Savannah Republican.



DAVENPORT HOUSE CALENDAR

Monday, November 2 early – garden planting
Tuesday, November 3 from 6 to 8 p.m. – SAA Junior Interpreters
Friday, November 6 all day – Field Trip to Charleston
Tuesday, November 10 at noon – Davenport House Committee - 2 to 4 p.m. – HSF Board Orientation in the pharmacy - 6 to 8 p.m. – SAA Junior Interpreters
Friday, November 13 – Pharmacy rental
Saturday, November 14 – Garden rental
Monday, November 16 at 2 p.m. – Holiday Bazaar update meeting
Tuesday, November 17 from 6 to 8 p.m. – SAA Junior Interpreters
Wednesday, November 18 from 6:30 until 7:30 – JI Meeting and Training about pharmacy with Jim Abraham
Thursday, November 19 from 4 to 6 p.m. – Pharmacy Open House for event planners
November 20 through **December 3** – Pharmacy available for Holiday Bazaar prep
Monday, November 23 from 10 a.m. until – December interpretation put out - 5:30 p.m. – Holiday Interpretation Refresher/ALL STAFF
Tuesday, November 24 at 5:30 p.m. – Training for Holly Jolly Trolley Tour (with OTT personnel and DH volunteers)
Thursday, November 26 – Museum closed for Thanksgiving
Friday, November 27 all day – SAA Junior Interpreter Day (giving tours all day) - Evenings through December 23 – Holiday Jolly Trolley Tour (7:20 and later p.m.)
Saturday, November 28 all day – SAA Junior Interpreter Day (giving tours all day)

UPCOMING – IN DECEMBER:

Tuesday, December 1 at 10 a.m. and **Wednesday, December 2** at 2 p.m. - Holiday Interpretation Refresher for Docents (Spotlight: jellies and syllabus)
Thursday, December 3 – Prep for Holiday Bazaar, Prep for Holiday Party
Friday, December 4 from 5 to 7 p.m. – **DAVENPORT HOUSE CHRISTMAS PARTY (Y'all all come!)**, Holiday Bazaar Preview
Saturday, December 5 and 6 – Holiday Bazaar
Saturday, December 26 through **Tuesday, December 30** – Holiday Evening Tours by Candlelight (**Get your costumes ready!!**)

SHOP NEWS:

- **Volunteers and Friends of the Davenport House** anticipate your 25% discount in the shop offered December 1 through December 15, as a thank you for all you do for the museum.
 - The shop's "under \$10" table is doing well. Ben also has some items under \$5 including books on Georgia History, prints of the **Declaration of Independence**, Maps of Savannah, Colonial cookbook, superstitions of the South, etc.

TRIP ON NOVEMBER 6TH:

Twenty-two travelers from the DH will journey to Charleston on November 6 to visit 4 house museums (Aiken Rhett, Joseph Manigault, Nathaniel Russell and Edmonston-Alston). The caravan of vehicles will include one DH rented 15-passenger van, a mini-van driven by **Claudette Engvall** from The Landings, a mini-van driven by **Jan Vach**, and a car driven by **Sally and Tom Clark**. Travelers in the DH van are asked to be at the DH by 7:25 a.m. Other drivers should



get a packet of maps from the office before the trip. You know we have limited parking hence the museum is unable to handle all-day parking in its lot for those not working at the house that day. Please arrange your parking and car pooling with this understanding.

The DH van will have snacks for all. The group will receive special tours from Historic Charleston Foundation sites – Aiken Rhett House and Nathaniel Russell House. The group will have lunch at Magnolia Restaurant . . . and travelers should bring cash as separate check will take too long and is frowned upon.

FALL/WINTER GARDEN

PLANTING:

Eve Seibert and Gaye Drummond will assist Raleigh Marcell in transporting and then planting fall plants in the Italian pots and the parterre on Monday, November 2.

PHARMACY OPEN HOUSE:

On Thursday, November 19 from 4 to 6 p.m. there will be a **Kennedy Pharmacy Open House** for event planners, caterers, etc. For this event the building will be opened for examination in anticipation of future rentals. Attendees will receive rental information on both the pharmacy and the DH garden. We expect both spots on the property to work together. Volunteers will be needed to serve, be hospitable and clean up. Any takers??



PLANNING FOR THE HOLIDAY

BAZAAR:

- There will be a **Holiday Bazaar Update Meeting at 2 p.m. on Monday, November 16.** We hope to develop a plan for setting up the building and a work schedule for the December 4 through 6 event. A report on the



decisions made at the meeting will be emailed

- Items which **Ann Koontz** ordered at the Atlanta Gift Market have come in. **Ben Head** inventoried each box checking it against the packing sheet.

JUNIOR INTERPRETERS:

- Having met on Tuesday evenings since October 6, Savannah Arts Academy JIs will conclude training by giving their first tours to the public on the Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving. The students are committed and enthusiastic and we hope they have begun a long tenure of service to the museum. Please welcome **Amber Adams, Molly Alexander, Amanda Baskin, Lindsey Braden, Nickolas Colbrook, Lindsey Deering, LeeAnn Grayson, Melissa Hinely, Seema Patel, Ruben Ramos, Madison Roberson, Donald Smooth, Kimberly Stastny, Leah Wade** and **Annelise Wornat**. All of these young people are sophomores in **Rod MacKay's** American History class.

- **CALLING ALL VETERAN JIS:** We will have a meeting and training on Wednesday, November 18 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. to develop a "tour" of the pharmacy. Then JIs will return for the PHARMACY OPEN HOUSE the next day (Thursday, November 19 from 3:50 to 6:15 p.m.) to station areas around the property – in the garden, by the lane, in the patio and in the main building of the pharmacy – giving information about the pharmacy building and the museum.

ANNUAL GIVING:

- 2009-2010 Annual Giving Campaign letters will go out around November 9. Thank you to **Cornelia Groves** and **Ann Koontz**.

NEW LEADERSHIP:

As of October 29 with HSF's Annual Meeting a new term for Davenport House Committee members has begun. At the meeting

John Mitchell concluded his service as HSF chairman of the board and the reins were taken over by **J. T. Turner**. **Betty Butler** rolled off the DH Committee after six years of service and **Allison Rhangos** resigned in the summer due to other commitments — leaving two places to fill. New DHC members are **Helen Johnson** and **Marilyn Sheridan**. We are grateful for the committed service of all **DHC members**, who in addition to Jim, Helen and Marilyn are **Ann Koontz**, president, **Debbie Critz**, treasurer, **Gaye Drummond, Kay Gardner, Cornelia Groves, Dirk Hardison, Kim Iocovozzi**, secretary, **Candy Lowe, Dick Platt**, and **Roger Smith**.

DOCENT TRAINING REPORT:

- Five people began docent training in October and one has already committed to docenting dates in November and December. Hurray for **De Gassman** who is the first of the class out of the gate!

COLLECTIONS:

- **Old Secretary** - For those of you interested in the secretary that used to be in the office. It will be available for viewing (and bidding) on **iGavel** October 30 through November 19. It will also be in an exhibit of items up for auction held at Everard Auction House at 2436 Waters Avenue (parking at the rear of the building) November 13—14. The exhibit and auction will also include items from the estate of **Ron Strahan** of Savannah.



- **ABOUT THE MANTLE IN THE DRAWING ROOM** -We have heard a lot of different things about how and why the Drawing Room mantle was returned to the house. This is what happened: **Cornelia Groves** and the late **Michael Collins** were instrumental in having it returned to the museum in 1996. Collins, who was a respected decorator in Savan-

nah, knew that **Mrs. Mills Lane, Sr.**, who lived on Gaston Street, had replaced the DH mantle which the family had acquired earlier (we do not know that story) with another one and that the DH mantle was in her basement. They asked for the mantle to be returned to the Davenport House and Mrs. Lane was happy to do it. The **Historic American Buildings Survey** photos from 1936 clearly shows this mantle in the DH drawing room.

MAINTENANCE WORK: SIDEWALK, PATIO AND AC:

- Our sidewalk project was completed in October. Huzzah to bluestones that slant away from the house. **Scottish Stonecraft** did the job we asked them to do. And as the workmen said, “Your stones were heavy!”

- Recently we had an AC insulation issue (our insulation was too thin or split and condensation/moisture was evident to the touch) with the attic units and the fact we had been using the AC room for storage with boxes of catering supplies hid the problem or the evidence of the problem. As a consequence we moved all the catering supplies out of the AC room and our AC contractor—**Bill McBride**—replaced the old insulation with new.

- The patio construction behind the Kennedy Pharmacy, which will include building a fence similar to the one around the DH, a storage unit and a small open area for entertaining will be completed in November. We hope it will be done in time for the open house on November 19. **Savannah Hardscapes** and **Jonathan Hall** are the contractors for the patio work. Once this is done the Kennedy Pharmacy rehabilitation and construction project will be complete.



TAUCK TOURS/PAST AND FUTURE:

- Our team of **Tauck Tour** volunteers did a tremendous job presenting

our Madeira/hospitality program over 8 evenings in the fall. Thank you to - **Marcy Brennan** (with linens), **De Gassman** (with linens), **Marty Barnes** (who wanted to be “Julie”), **Pat Fraker**, **Pat Kelly**, **Patricia Pritchard**, **Bob Pritchard**, **Karen Halloran**, and **Beth Wichers!!** Plus **Jeff Freeman** and **Raleigh Marcell**.

- **TAKE NOTE:** Just after the last Tauck Tours group on October 23, Jamie received an email containing the schedule of Tauck Tours dates for 2010 which includes 27 scheduled visits to Savannah with a stop at the DH – on Thursday and Friday evenings in the spring and fall. Over the next few weeks staff and volunteers will discuss how the museum’s participation will impact rentals and already scheduled spring programs including the Expo, Trolley Back in Time (for the Savannah Tour of Homes and Gardens) and DH tea programs. We hope that our group of volunteers, who work the fall evening tours in fine fashion, will want to continue in the spring. We also hope our pool of willing volunteers for evening programs will grow. Talk to Jamie about this!

HOSPITALITY IN OCTOBER:

Expo Wine and Cheese: Each year the DH offers a hospitality in the garden along with special tour as a silent auction item for the Savannah Garden Expo. The one from the 2009 Expo was purchased by **Drew and Julie Wade** and was presented on October 22. We had terrific help with this beautiful event – **De Gassman** was bartender, **Marty Barnes** and **Karen Halloran** were tour guides, **Jeff Freeman** offered living history interpretation as Dr. W. R. Waring, **Raleigh Marcell** help with set up and take down and **Jamie Credle** coordinated the event. Generous refreshment contributions were made by **Kathy Horne**, **John Mitchell**, **J.T. Turner**, **Debbie Critz**, **Bill Lovett**, **Aaron Levy**, and **Kim Iocovozzi**.



YELLOW FEVER!:

We broke all records with this year’s **Yellow Fever!** production. For the previous 6 years we did two performances a night for our October living history program. This year we did 4 performances per evening over 5 weekends presenting 39 performances plus the premier on September 30. The commitment by the “talent” was tremendous. They were willing and generous with their time and acting skills. And the most generous of all was Raleigh who put together the show over the summer, rehearsed and directed the performers and acted in two parts during each performance – all as a volunteer. Please know the program’s performers were **Lauren Purcell**,



Darcy Barr, **Zoë Wolff**, **Carolina Perez**, **Becca Dawson**, **Jeff Freeman**, **Jody Leyva**, **Jamie Credle**, **Judy Crenshaw**, **Jamal Touré** and **Raleigh Marcell**. **Jamal Touré** is our constant star and we are grateful for his work in creating his performance and for being there to entertain and teach our audience as the program’s grand finale. Huzzah to an original work of theater presented by a talented cast that utilized our entire site and taught about an event which the Davenport’s would have known! .

Many thank yous to the program’s Premier Patrons from the board of Historic Savannah Foundation – **Lorraine** and **Scott Boise**, **Jennifer Flanna**, **Ann** and **Dudley Koontz**, **Ebony Simpson**, **J. T. Turner**, **Franklin Williamson** and **Reid Williamson** who attended the show on September 30.

Along with the generosity of patrons and performers a lot of folks contributed time and in-kind service to the program including **Eve Seibert** and **Helen Linskey** who made treats for the cast, volunteer seamstress **Judy Howell** who adjusted costumes from previous productions, **Anne-Marie Miles**, **Claudia Mills** and **Jan Vach** who were volunteer designers, and the media especially **Chuck**

Mobley with the Savannah Morning News as well as the Community Calendar and the “Do” section, Connect Savannah, Mid-Morning Live – WTOC, Morning Show and **Jessica Kiss** WJCL, the variety of on-line calendar listings including the Savannah CVB, Explore Georgia and The Creative Coast, calendar listings in The Skinnie, Scene Magazine, Savannah Magazine, The South Magazine, **Orlando Montoya** and Public Radio for the Coast, etc. (I am sure leaving out a lot of helpers). Businesses on Broughton Street were kind in letting us put the program’s poster in their store windows. Trolley drivers, carriage drivers, concierges and innkeepers were kind in recommending the show to their patrons. You already know that **Ed Case** was our volunteer coffin maker. Program workers included **Beth Wichers**, **Dottie Kraft**, **Ambria Berksteiner**, **Amber Berksteiner**, **Ben Head**, **Charlotte Rehmert**, **Anna Hendrix**, **Joseph McArthur**, **Taylor Woods** and **Iain Woodside**. Thank you. And, thank you to all of y’all in the DH community who attended a performance. That means a great deal!

We anticipate having seen 600 patrons and doubling the income produced by the program – all of which “goes back into the museum.”

WORTH MENTIONING:



- **Award presented recently:** **Craig Barrow**, a long-time supporter of the Davenport House and a DH Endowment Director, was recognized with **Leopold Adler Preservation Award** by the King Tisdell Foundation on September 26. During the ceremony the work he has accomplished at his ancestral home, Wormsloe, was highlighted, but also noted was his commitment to the Davenport House.

- In October the **Spirit of Excellence Black Business Awards** recognized **Jamal Touré**, our star living history performer, as **Entrepreneur of the Year** for his

tour business Day Clean Journeys Inc.

- **Elizabeth Garrett Ryan**, formerly of the Historic Beaufort Foundation and who is now Adjunct Professor, Clemson University/College of Charleston in the graduate program in Historic Preservation, sent a student to review our furnishings plan as a class exercise. In thanking us for our time Ryan writes, “*I think next year I’ll bring all of the students to the Davenport House since it really is the only house museum in the area with a comprehensive furnishings plan.*”

- **Marty Barnes** mentions a gentleman on her tour: “*I had an interesting man from England on my tour Saturday. As he was leaving he told me it was so refreshing to tour a lovely home that was so obviously about a family and was built by a talented young man for his family. He said it was so different from touring English estates, done by known architects for titled owners with oodles of money that had come down through the generations. He said the Davenport was ‘much less boring’ to him.*”

- In Docent Training we were discussing dress codes, etc. and Judy Maltenfort related a saying from Oleg Cassini : *Clothes should be tight enough to show you’re a woman and loose enough to show you’re a lady.*

- More discussion on the **Pride of India Trees:** A docent writes, “*Those Pride of India trees are mentioned in the new Tour Manual the city put out. They are called Persian Lilacs in the Google article and they apparently had a very nice scent. As I went further down in the info, it seems that the crepe myrtle was a distant cousin of the Pride of India trees.*” Jim Abraham writes, “*Professor Packard of our faculty [SCAD] reports that the Pride of India Tree is also known as – Chinaberry, Golden Rain and Umbrella.*”

- **Proofers:** Thanks to **Marty Barnes** and **Beth Kinster** who have done a lot of proofreading work for the DH lately and are not responsible for what goes out!

- **Floor cloth touch up:** **Jan Vach** came in early on a Sunday morning to touch up the floor cloth which was flaking in a few spot. Thank you! Our floor cloth has been in place since 1996.

- October was very busy. We are grateful to each and every one of you who helped out during the month. Extra special thanks to **Sue Bordenkircher** and **Barbara Harris** for the 8 a.m. tour help.



DH IN THE MEDIA:

- Photographer **Kevin Banker** and editor **Jenny Byrd** are doing a story on the Kennedy Pharmacy for the December edition of The South Magazine. **Jim Abraham** and **Ted Haviland** were to have been interviewed for the piece.

- Southern Lady Magazine, which is put out by the Southern Living people, will feature five cities in five issues beginning with the January/February 2010 issue and this issue will feature Savannah. **John O’Hagan** took some fine photos of the DH which will be included. Editor **Karen Callaway** will write the story. The magazine has a readership of 417,000.

DAY OF THANKSGIVING

In Council, Savannah, Nov. 15, 1819. Whereas, it hath pleased Almighty God to extend the blessings of his merciful Providence to this city, in preserving the lives, and restoring to health its inhabitants—And whereas, the City Council, sensible of the blessings, and grateful to Almighty God of his continued mercies, have determined that a day should be set apart for PRAYER and THANKSGIVING: -- Be and it is hereby ordained, that Thursday, the 25th November inst. Be a day set apart as a day of HUMILATION, PRAYER and THANKSGIVING. And be it further resolved, That the different Clergymen of this city by requested to join in Divine Service, on that day—and, it is also requested, that the citizens of this city do abstain from daily avocations on the above day. And be it further resolved, That these resolutions be published. Extract from the minutes. R. R. CUYLER, acting clerk



Sarah's Sons and the Civil War



By Jeff Freeman

All of us have heard or read of the legend of the contentious encounter of a feisty, aged Sarah Davenport with General Sherman when the latter's army occupied Savannah near the close of the Civil War. Supposedly Sarah, incensed at her treatment by Union soldiers, marched up to Sherman's headquarters and demanded to see him. Annoyed by the commotion she caused, Sherman came out to see what was the matter and Sarah complained bitterly to him that she had 3 sons fighting for the Union and 3 fighting for the Confederacy and that she deserved better treatment and more respect from his men. Sherman allegedly agreed and posted sentries around Sarah's home to protect it from the other troops. This is a wonderful story but I have been unable to verify its authenticity beyond its mention in an article for the Tour of Homes by Helena Zimmerman (date unknown.) But it is also true that many legends are based on kernels of truth and I have been trying to piece together information over the last few years to find out just how much of Sarah's reputed claim might be true. Progress has been fitful but recently evidence has been uncovered that fills in more of the pieces of the picture. Let's take a look.

About Isaiah and Sarah's oldest surviving son **Isaiah, Jr.** we still know very little. I have been unable to locate any reference to his participation on either side of the conflict. We do know that by 1850, Isaiah resided in St. Louis, MO with his wife Martha and daughters Isabella, Sarah and Anna according to the United States Federal Census. His occupation is listed as "merchant." When he died from "dropsy of the heart" or what today is called congestive heart failure on October 29, 1868,

he was in Cincinnati, Ohio. (records from Spring Grove Cemetery uncovered by Linda Dillard). Hopefully, future research will reward us with more details on his life.

Interestingly, Isaiah's second oldest son **Benjamin Rush Tippins** who died in Savannah in 1875 (Klingenfelter, 1987) was also listed on the 1850 Federal Census as living in St. Louis with his wife and daughters Mary, Ellen and Susan (Susannah) and is listed as a "commercial merchant." What brought him back to Savannah, we do not know for sure but according to information in our archives published by the United Daughters of the Confederacy and supplied by Susannah Clark Bryan, Benjamin's daughter, he served in the Confederate States Navy on board the gunboat **C.S.S. Sampson**. If Benjamin was a member of the crew of the **Sampson**, he may have lived through several hot engagements. As part of Commodore Josiah Tatnall's squadron, the **C.S.S. Sampson** exchanged fire with the U.S. ships under Rear Admiral Dupont in the unsuccessful defense of Port Royal, SC in November 1861. The **Sampson** also sustained damage from Federal shells as she attempted to take much needed provisions to Fort Pulaski in January of 1862. The fort would fall to Union forces in April that year. Thus far, I have not been able to find a comprehensive list of the **Sampson's** crew nor any other reference to verify that B. R. T. Davenport served on her but hopefully, future research will uncover additional information. On a side note, I ran across an interesting tidbit in light of the excitement surrounding the filming of the **"THE CONSPIRATOR"** going on right now. For those few of you who don't know, the movie focuses on the conspiracy to assassinate President Lincoln. In a letter written in 1964

to Ethelyn McKinnon, Mrs. Ernest Kersey, Benjamin's granddaughter writes that though she never met her grandfather, "We used to have some pictures of him also John Wilkes Booth, and it seems they were friends. ...Booth could have been playing in Savannah, since he was an actor."

Archibald Clark Davenport's war record is more complete. He was a member of the Savannah Volunteer Guards, a militia unit originally organized in 1802. By January of 1861, A. C. Davenport was listed as a lieutenant in this unit. According to information on the website www.usgen.net, when the war commenced, there were so many new volunteers that the unit was forced to subdivide itself into two companies, A & B and Archibald was named captain of Company B. The Guards were involved in the seizure of Fort Pulaski from Federal control when Georgia seceded from the Union in February of 1861. The unit was then reorganized again and absorbed into the **1st Volunteer Regiment of Georgia**. Davenport was then listed as Captain of Company G, more popularly known as the **Tatnall Guards**. Elements of this regiment under the command of Colonel Charles Olmstead defended Fort Pulaski from the Federal assault in April 1862. This action signaled the end of the use of brick fortifications as a defense against cannon fire as the rifled shells of the Union easily penetrated the 7 1/2 foot thick walls. Rather than sacrifice his men to unnecessary slaughter, Olmstead surrendered the garrison. Although part of Olmstead's overall command, Captain Davenport's company does not seem to have been part of the Pulaski garrison. After Olmstead was paroled, most of his unit served in the defense of Charleston and it is most likely that

Davenport's saw most of his action there as well (www.nps.gov/fopu/historyculture/battle-for-fort-pulaski.htm).

Hugh McCall Davenport's service is also well documented. He is listed as **Regimental Quartermaster of the 1st Georgia Volunteers** (www.researchonline.net/gacw/unit5.htm) and in our archives was a notation in the margins of one of the genealogy charts that he had been present at Lee's surrender to Grant in Appomattox, VA. Recently, out of the blue, I received an email requesting information on where Hugh McCall Davenport was buried. The email was from a man doing research for a gentleman writing a book on Confederate veterans. I told them that McCall had died on July 31, 1880 in Iamonia, FL where his daughter's husband (Lucien Hamilton Raines) had a family estate called **Springwood**. Iamonia is in the Florida panhandle close to the border with Georgia. Davenport was buried in Duncanville, Ga which is just across the border and where the Raines family had a section reserved in a Church burial ground. I requested that the author Robert Krick contact me with any information he had on Hugh McCall and was rewarded with some very interesting data. Here is an excerpt from his response –

--Lt. acting Commissary, on duty at Fort Pulaski, April 1861. That probably was with Georgia state forces rather than the Confederate army, though I'm only guessing.

--Commissioned Captain and Assistant Quartermaster on Sept. 11, 1861. Sent to Tybee Island and served under Col. Hugh Mercer. Later on duty at Brunswick, Ga.

--Transferred to similar duty at headquarters "District of Georgia," Dec. 1862 through at least Feby. 1864 (and probably all the way to September). That was not a combat post with

any army, but rather in Savannah--nice duty.

--Promoted to Major and Quartermaster, to rank from July 30, 1863.

--Transferred to the field, September 23, 1864, and assigned to duty as Quartermaster for Henry L. Benning's brigade in the Army of Northern Virginia. For most of that time General Dudley DuBose commanded Benning's men, though HMD would have served under both of them at various times. He was present when the army surrendered at Appomattox in April 1865.

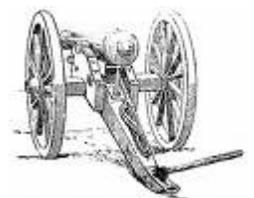
He was also able to add an impression of Major Davenport attributed to a member of Benning's staff who described him as "a very stirring man, a great blower, mighty fussy."

In earlier newsletters, I have written at length about **Henry K. Davenport's** service in the United States Navy during the Civil War and his role as Senior Officer on Station of the North Atlantic Blockading Fleet off the coast of North Carolina and I'll introduce more about his distinguished career in the future newsletters. But of greater interest at the moment is the information which has come to light with regard to **Dudley Davenport**, Isaiah's youngest son. Information from our archival genealogy chart states that Dudley, born in 1827, married a young lady named Mary F. LePoint from Oswego, NY on July 7, 1862 and that he died in Albany, NY in 1867. But we also had conflicting information from another archival source that said he died in 1862 here in Savannah at Oglethorpe Barracks. Until now, we had no corroborating information for either account. One of the benefits of computer technology is that many libraries are converting written documents to electronic formats and making them available online and this played a major role in clearing up the data on Dudley Davenport. Recently, issues of the

Oswego Daily Palladium, the Oswego daily newspaper, have become available and it turns out that the Davenport name and that of Dudley Davenport were referenced in several articles written years ago. It appears that newspaper reporters for the Palladium were rather loose with their facts (for instance referring to him as Captain Davenport) but they did mention some relevant information. One in particular dated February 21, 1895, states that "... Davenport was born in Savannah, Ga. and was a brother-in-law of General Jackson, one time a member of Congress and United States minister to Vienna." Bingo! General Jackson is of course **Henry Rootes Jackson**, Cornelia's husband, who served as Minister to the Court of Vienna from 1853 (only months after Cornelia's tragic death) to 1858. So why was Dudley Davenport being mentioned in the Oswego newspaper? That is a fascinating story in itself.

For some time I have been running across references to a Lt. Dudley Davenport a Georgian in the **United States Revenue Cutter Service** (known as the United States Revenue Marine until 1862) being involved in an incident during the Civil War in Portland, ME in which Confederate raiders hijacked a U.S. cutter.

On the night of June 27, raiders under the command of Lt. Charles Read, CSN seized the revenue cutter **Caleb Cushing** of which Lt. Davenport was in temporary command after the death of her captain. Most of the crew was ashore on liberty and only a few were still aboard the cutter. The raiders quietly approached the ship in a small boat and slipping up over the sides, quickly overpowered the watch and surprised the sleeping crew and





placed them along with Lt. Davenport in the brig. They then attempted to fire up the boilers and head out to sea with the intent of using the **Cushing** as a commerce raider. Firing up cold boilers is not something that can be done quickly, however, so the Confederates decided to place two oared boats in the water and use them to tow the cutter out. Before they could clear the harbor however, the theft was discovered and other ships began to give chase. The Confederate crew manned the 32 pound swivel cannon of the cutter and fired at their pursuers. After several shots, however, they ran out of shells. They went to Davenport demanding the location of the ship's ammunition but Davenport lied and told them that as the ship was in port, they had not had time to load ammunition. In reality, 90 rounds were hidden on board but the raiders never found them. Unable to defend themselves, the Confederates placed their prisoners and Lt. Davenport in a boat and cut them loose. They then set fire to the cutter and attempted to make their escape in another boat but they were quickly captured. The Cushing, however, was completely destroyed. Apparently, because he was a native southerner, Davenport was initially suspected of being in league with the Confederates but he was soon completely exonerated. Below is a report filed by the U. S. Customs Collector to whom Davenport would have reported as an officer of the Revenue Service.

Report of the U. S. Collector of Customs at Portland, Me., relative to the commanding officer of the revenue cutter Caleb Cushing.
Collector's Office
District of Portland and Falmouth, Portland, [Me.], July 1, 1863.

Sir: I herewith transmit you a communication from Lieutenant Dudley Davenport, reporting himself as waiting orders.

I am happy to say that, in my opinion, all grounds of suspicion against Lieutenant Davenport have been removed. He refused to show the captors the keys to the magazine or point out the shot locker, which they were unable to find.

Lt. Read says that if he could have found the locker, which had about ninety 32-pound shot in it, he would have fought it out. This would have resulted in his having been run down, with the probable loss of the cutter's crew, who were below in irons. Both officers and men, like Lieutenant Davenport, lost all their clothing on board the cutter.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,
Jedidiah Jewett
Collector

Hon. Salmon P. Chase
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D. C." p. 329.

With the destruction of the **Caleb Cushing** by Read's men, the crew lost all of their records and their clothing. This unfortunate event was very fortuitous in that it subsequently led to another event 34 years later which made the Oswego news and enabled us to verify Dudley's identity as Isaiah's son. Because Dudley's papers were lost, his widow was unable to prove for sometime that she was entitled to his pension which as the wife of an officer in the service of the government and a Civil War veteran she justly deserved. By 1895, Mary Davenport who had remained in her home town had hired a lawyer and he was able to uncover the proper documentation and plead her case to the government. According to the paper, she stood to gain \$130,000! Accordingly, in 1896, congress granted her request and passed an act which stated:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior be and he is hereby authorized and directed to place upon the pension roll

the name of Mary F. Davenport, widow of Dudley Davenport, late first lieutenant of the steamer Caleb Cushing, and pay her a pension at the rate of twenty five dollars per month.

Approved June 3 1896 (Google books)

Not the \$130,000 the paper said she was would get – closer to \$9000 but still a significant amount at that time.

Like his brother Henry, Dudley appears to have been a career officer. An article published in the Northeast Florida History Journal in 1996 mentions briefly the role of 2nd Lt. Dudley Davenport of the revenue cutter Jackson in the blockade and entrapment at the mouth of the St. John's River of a steam vessel called the **Pampero** that was supposedly involved in an attempt to transport filibuster troops from Jacksonville, FL to Cuba in 1851. Twelve years later his bravery in a dire situation would be responsible for preserving the lives of his crew, and possibly the lives of his compatriots and his enemies.

So what happen to Dudley in the end? Again, the Oswego Palladium provides some clue to that. Apparently, Dudley developed some sort of mental illness around the close of the war and was declared insane. He was ultimately committed to an asylum in Albany, NY where he died in October of 1867. It must be pointed out though, that this is the only source I have found so far that talks about his mental illness. Bearing in mind the suspect nature of some of the Palladium's data, it would be unwise to accept it as fact without additional evidence. The date and the place of his death, however, are agreed to by both the Oswego newspaper and our archival data.

So, to return to the legend of Sarah's confrontation with General Sherman, we are now in a somewhat better position to assess at least a portion the tale. Although we can't corroborate her claim com-



pletely, we have been able to confirm that two of her sons were definitely in service of the Confederacy as army officers and possibly another in the Confederate Navy. Fighting for the Union, were two other sons, both naval officers, one in the regular navy and one in the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service. Accepting Benjamin's service in the CSN, the count stands at 3 for the south and 2 for the north. For Sarah and her sons and their families, this would have been a extremely painful affair and may possibly have riven the close-knit family apart. No wonder, then, that she would have had little patience with the rudeness or arrogance of soldiers when she had suffered and sacrificed so much for both sides.

Sources:

- Tour of Homes article by Helena Zimmerman (date unknown)
- Davenport Genealogical Chart – compiled by Klingenfelzer, 1987
- United States Federal Census Records – researched by Linda Dillard
- Records of Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati, OH – researched by Linda Dillard
- Mrs. Ernest Kernsey – letter to Ethelyn McKinnon, 1964
- www.usgennet.org
- www.nps.gov/fopu / historyculture/battle-for-fort-pulaski.htm
- www.researchonline.net/gacw/unit5.htm
- Email from Robert Krick to Jeff Freeman, 2009.
- Oswego Daily Palladium, June 17, 1911
- Oswego Daily Palladium, February 21, 1895
- Spoilers of the Sea, Wartime Raiders in the Age of Steam, by

John Phillips Cranwell, 1941; reprint 1970

Sea Wolf of the Confederacy, The Daring Civil War Raids of Naval Lieutenant Charles W. Read, by David W. Shaw, 2004

Maryland Historical Magazine, Vol. X By William Hand Browne, Maryland Historical Society, Louis Henry Dielman, ed., 1915.

Southern Historical Society Papers, Volume XXIII, R. A. Brock, ed., 1895.

Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion

By United States Navy Dept, United States Naval War Records Office, Richard Rush, United States Office of Naval Records and Library Published 1895.

<http://tmlha.exis.net/rcs.htm>

FIFTY FOURTH CONGRESS, SESS I, CHS 319-323. 1896. CHAP 319 - An Act Granting a pension to Mary F Davenport.

A look at the DH guest register:

During the month of October (2009), we saw visitors 44 states and 12 countries. Some interesting hometowns include Gunterville, AL, Niantic, CT, Palm Bay, FL, Kailua, HI, Coal City, IL, Hebron, IN, Milroy, IN, Plaquemine, LA, Randolph, MI, Cape Girardeau, MO, Glendive, MT, Holderness and Grantham, NH, Mercerville, NJ, Bandon, OR, Atlanta, TX, Bothell and Snohomish, WA and Invercaigill in New Zealand. Foreign guests traveled from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, England, Germany, Ireland, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Scotland, Sweden and Turkey.

Where they heard about us:

Tour guide (mentioned by name: Ghost Tour, Juliette Gordon Low House, Bobby Davis), guide book

(mentioned by name: AAA, Lonely Planet, Lonely Planet, Frommer's), trolley tour (mentioned by name: Oglethorpe, Old Town, Grayline), brochure, Visitor Center, friends, concierge (mentioned by name: Marriott, Hyatt, Hilton, Kehoe House), Internet, Starr Tours, walked by, church group, tour map, relative, newspaper, repeat visit, TV (mentioned by name: Paula Deen, Travel Channel), local, research

What They Had To Say:

- "Wonderful home & tour."
- "Loved it!" "Pretty plants!"
- "Fab!" "Thank heaven for preservation." "Extremely nice."
- "Cool!" "Great, but wish we could have viewed attic." "Wonderful. Loved Sarah's story." "Will recommend this to others."
- "Amazing! Loved it!" "Great job." "Love the garden. Very nice." "Martie, thanks for your efforts." "Linda Meyer was great."
- "Enjoyed the speaker." "Very impressive." "More about Mrs. Davenport and kids." "Excellent tour. Beautiful restoration." "Savannah is beautiful." "I'd love to come back." "Diane - great tour guide." "Marty was fabulous."
- "Gorgeous." "Our favorite house tour." "Beautiful colors, wonderful doors." "Speechless..." "Neat house." "Learned a lot." "Super." "Wonderful - great guide Ms. Kemp." "Wonderful treasure."
- "Great historical perspective."
- "Wonderful museum, great staff. Enjoyed Yellow Fever." "Jan Vach, wonderful tour." "Lovely example of Savannah architecture."