



Isaiah Davenport House Volunteer Newsletter

January 2011

www.davenportmuseum.org

236-8097



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ELEAZ. EARLY,
Post Master

dec. 27 19
1/13/1824, The Georgian

DAVENPORT HOUSE CALENDAR

Saturday, January 1 – Happy New Year! DH Closed

Monday, January 10 through

Friday, January 14 – DH Closed/ Annual Cleaning

Tuesday, January 11 at noon in the Kennedy Pharmacy – Davenport House Committee

Friday, January 14 at 2 p.m. – Collections Committee review of cleaning and goals

Thursday, January 20 at 8:30 a.m. in the Kennedy Pharmacy –

Davenport House Endowment
Directors meeting
6:30 p.m. in the DH – January
Junior Interpreter meeting (topic:

Dirk said he was having difficulty making arrangements to get us into private homes we may not have seen. Then he said he knew some places such as illegal speak-easies and places that could be termed "creepy" but wasn't sure if they were appropriate for a docent field trip. . . . Jamie said, "Let's see 'em! We are game!"

JOIN US FOR THE DH'S **NEVER A DULL MOMENT - FEBRUARY VOLUNTEER FIELD TRIP AND WALKING TOUR**

Dirk Hardison, long time Savannah resident, architectural authority and owner of *Savannah Rambles* tour company, has planned for our group to see a variety of sites that we might not normally have a chance to learn about on Bay and Broughton Streets. We will discuss Savannah's little known history including visits to Solomon's Lodge #1 (whose website reads "*the oldest continuously operating English constituted Lodge of Freemasons in the Western Hemisphere*"), the Lion's Block, the possibility of visiting the City Hotel (which is now Moon River Brewery and was designed by William Jay), Club One (as featured in Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil), etc. There will be plenty of walking and talking about all the sites along the way on **Wednesday, February 23 from 10 until 2:30**. The price will be \$30 dollars in addition to lunch. Please have your money in to Jeff by February 16. We are currently working on lunch options with the hope of keeping the cost below \$12 per person. We will let you know in good time. The rain date will be Thursday, February 24.

OYSTER ROAST:

I HOPE YOU KNOW YOU ARE INVITED!

Following the museum's successful Stakeholders Forum

concerning the Kennedy Pharmacy in November, the **Davenport House Committee** thought it wise to begin fund raising and awareness raising of the possibilities afforded us by this building. Along with its current use – meeting space and rentals— Stakeholders came up with a number of short term (3 to 5 years) uses which could see us through until we are able to accomplish our long term goal of moving the shop and offices into the building. Long term goals will take much thoughtful planning, substantial fund raising and time to accomplish. But the short term goals – creating a lecture series, creating DVDs which could be shown in the building, etc. - could be accomplished in the meantime with more modest funding and community support.

That being said, the Davenport House Committee wants to continue building a strong, informed community of supporters with an



Oyster Roast at a private home on the marsh in the Beaulieu area of Chatham County. Formal invitations are being sent to those who are not as fully aware of what we do as DH volunteers. Please consider this as your personal invitation to the oyster roast (followed by a meal on the property) on Saturday, February 12 from 12:30 p.m. until. Tickets are \$100 per person as your statement of support for Kennedy Pharmacy programming. Return the information seen within by February 2. Following this, directions and an acknowledgment will be sent to you. Y'all come to this cool weather low country pleasure. Oyster knives will be provided!

ANNUAL CLEANING:

The Davenport House will be closed Monday, January 10 through Friday, January 14 for annual cleaning. If you would like to help with cleaning please let us know by emailing or calling— jcredle@davenportmuseum.org



museum.org or 912/236-8097). A few careful volunteers are needed from 9 a.m. until noon Monday through

Wednesday. Some of the tasks to accomplish will include polishing brass and dusting. Raleigh Marcell will lead the effort.

COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE:

Following annual cleaning on Friday, January 14 at 2 p.m., the DH Collections Committee will review the exhibit area and collections priority list.

SHOP NEWS:

- **Ben Head** will be away at the Winter Gift Market in Atlanta January 16 through 19.

- See the beautiful new line of jewelry at the DH shop counter.



- About the left over **Christmas items** for sale in the shop - as of January 1, volunteers can make Ben an offer for what is left.

- **Custom DH calendars** will go on sale for \$12 beginning January 2.

DOCENT NEWS:

- **Newly trained docents:** Docent training will be offered in February. Please let any interested friends or acquaintances know of this opportunity and please give Jamie the contact information for prospective docents. Emails will be sent out about scheduling the program.

- **Training:** Volunteers who attended training in November should finish up their tour reviews and evaluations in January.

INTERPRETATION:

COMMENTS ON LAST MONTH'S NEWSLETTER – SUMMER DINING ROOM IN THE BASEMENT, ETC. // OR DECORATIVE ARTS GEEK FEST:

From Hugh Golson, historian

1. DH kitchen would have been in basement, not unlike how OT is laid out. I believe the “summer dining room” was more like the A. Low’s children’s dining room in basement. Probably eating near the

kitchen simplified things “out of season.”

2. I’d call it “two and a half over a basement.”

FYI – (only in Savannah) Golson notes “Both Shadrack Winkler and Wm Wayne were uncles of mine from different sides of the family. Wayne’s father built a wooden federalist mansion in 1790’s at Indian and West Broad (fire house today) and his property ran down to the river where his wharf was. River Street did not cut into his property. Shad Winkler bought the mansion around 1825 but the Waynes kept the lower wharf area. Wood was one of their many enterprises, including land speculation, and neither would have made personal deliveries – done by business slaves. The wood came from holdings up the Savannah River.”

From: Stephen Bohlin, Director, Andrew Low House

I thought you would like to know that the Andrew Low House has a well documented dining room in the basement. It was used primarily by the children in the family. The room is located on the southeast corner of the house, separated from the kitchen by the servants’ stair and pantry. Oddly enough it is the only room in the basement with a marble fireplace which matches those on the parlor floor. I think the room may also have been used as a servants’ hall also. There were also two other pantries, a laundry and a servant’s bedroom on this floor as well.

I do know that the Alexander Lawton house on Abercorn Street has a summer dining room in the basement that is decoratively grained like the Octagon room at the Telfair and the dining room at the Champion McAlpin Fowlkes house. However, the Wayne-Gordon House did not have a basement dining room. It was built slightly before the DH and you are probably right about the OT house as well. So maybe the basement dining room was a



refinement of the 1840 period and later. It certainly gives us some interesting questions to research . . . I just couldn’t help being intrigued by the issue and adding my two cents.

From: Susan M. May, Macon Museum of Arts and Science

Not in contradiction to what you wrote about the summer dining room but a piece of information/comment: The Hay House (1855-59) . . . had a summer dining room in the basement. It was a very large basement level, several 1000 sq. ft. That floor was an interesting mix of functions. On the basement level was a summer dining room, two summer bedrooms/sitting rooms, an interior kitchen (though it never had an open fireplace used for cooking; there was a cast iron stove instead), a scullery in which there was also a (coal-burning) furnace . . . , a larder, a ventilation tunnel for the cooling system, a servants’ toilet, and storage rooms. It always seemed an unusual combination of family and working space but the family information and, I believe, some letters indicated that the spaces were used in those ways. It seems that during the Johnston and Felton eras (1860 – 1926) cool air trumped other concerns during the parts of summers when they were in Macon. I was always intrigued with the question of family and slave/later servant interaction that the dual use of the basement implied.

SAVANNAH GARDEN EXPO:

As you no doubt know, the **Savannah Garden Expo** has changed its venue to the Morris Center at the Historic Trustees Garden. There is no more important area to Georgia’s garden history than this. With the new location, there will be new possibilities and new energy.

The DH is once again coordinating on-site volunteers for the event. Please let Jamie know if you would like to help as well as any prospective volunteers you know. At the end of the month she will send out an invitation to past event volunteers

along with the volunteer opportunities available this year. This will be communicated primarily by email. However, a mailing will be sent to folks who do not have email. Jamie will need volunteer help with this.

DECEMBER THANK YOU

- Before the holidays become a pale memory in the New Year, the DH wants you to know we are grateful for the extra effort put on during the month of December.



- Docents were gracious in reviewing and/or learning the new (and old) materials for the special holiday interpretation.

- **Jan Vach, Linda Meyer and Barbara Schulz** decorated live wreaths for the front and back of the house and made the windows in the Kennedy Pharmacy festive.

- The annual Christmas Party was a joy. Thank you to all who brought food and drink. We are grateful to all of you who attended and shared some holiday time with your museum friends. We wish to extend a special thanks to **Gaye Drummond** who made the gorgeous centerpiece as well as to **Debbie Critz** and **Marilyn Sheridan** who coordinated the gift sale during the party. JI helpers were **Annabelle Moe, Rachel Zettler, Lindsey Braden** and **Annelise Wornat**.

- **Holly Jolly Trolley:** Because of the freezing weather and the need to cover up the plants in the garden - which corresponded with the arrival of the first trolley - **Raleigh Marcell** volunteered 18 evenings for the Holly Jolly Trolley tour program. The DH partners with Old Town Trolley to present this program between Thanksgiving and Christmas. They have a terrific staff who are wonderful to work with. Our thanks to **Joyce, Priscilla, Quinn, Michael** - OTT docents during the program - and to their trolley drivers. **Jeff Freeman** led the DH for 6 evenings. We had assistance from **Jody Christie, Maria Sanchez, De**

Gassman, John Miller and Marty Barnes during the 27 nights of the program.

- **Junior Interpreters:** The formal graduation of the Savannah Arts Academy JI program occurred over Thanksgiving weekend when they gave tours for the first time to the public. However, seven SAA JI did not want to give up Tuesday nights altogether and participated in the DH tea program on December 7. They loved it! New JIs and vets helped with the DH Christmas party and 15 JIs attended the JI Christmas party. Thanks to JIs who gave tours during Christmas break - **Matthew Portman, Rachel Zettler, Jamillah Kelly, Molly McLaughlin, Annabelle Moe** and **Lauren Booker**.

- **Holiday Evening Tours:** The museum received the best ever publicity for its Holiday Evening Tours by Candlelight. Mention was made in City of Savannah and Savannah CVB listings which made it to Facebook. Along with the calendar listing, Savannah Morning News did a nice article in the "Do" section. Thank you to **Chuck Mobley** and **John Carrington**. Staff made appearances on *WTOC's Mid-Morning Live* with **Jody Chapin** and *WJCL's The Morning Show* with **Jessica Kiss** (on Christmas Eve - it has become a tradition). During the program Bunny Ware with SMN's social column came through so expect an article on January 2! ConnectSavannah listed the program and *Public Radio for the Coast* mentioned it as well. We are grateful for all the fine coverage from our friends in the media. Also, a special thanks to inn keepers, concierges and the Visitor Center for helping spread the word.

Attendance was the best ever with 125 people the average visitation per evening. We had terrific volunteer and staff turn out to make the program work. Thank to **Shari Laist** and **The Back Porch Band, Ben Head, Beth Kinstler, Raven Bryant, Raleigh Marcell, Lauren Purcell, Jody Christie, Judy**

Crenshaw, Kim Stastny, Pat Seguire, Whelma Wheten, Sarah Lanier, Anne Hagan, Dottie Kraft, Claudette Engvall, Mary Ann Scott, Hannah Morales, Madison Thomas, Adam Caracci (all 5 nights), **Lauren Booker, Betty Schwarz, Annabelle Moe** and **Shannon Wichers!**

- **Stuff we learned:** When you get two wreaths (one for the front facade and one for the back porch) and the one on the front of the house looks bad by December 22, take the one from the back porch and put it on the front just in time for Christmas and Holiday Evening Tours.

- People are going to spill cider in the shop if it is served in the hall. No matter what.

- Cold weather affects tourism in Savannah.

WORTH MENTIONING:

- **Staff Docents:** Welcome **Lauren Booker, Annabelle Moe** and **Rachel Zettler** as staff docents who will work on weekends.

- **Xmas cards and Holiday Goodies** - Thank you, thank you for all the treats and cards you left for staff during the holiday.

- **People we heard from:** **Angela Clark-Praxis** has two children and is still in Louisville. **Lin Chapman** is working in a bookstore in Toronto and she and her husband are happy there. Her second grandchild is on the way. **Jeremy Bond** is living in North Carolina. **Keith MacKay** is in Milwaukee at Ten Chimneys. **Heather Anderson Jones** and her husband **Jake** are living just outside of Atlanta. **Jim Abraham** sent adorable Christmas photos of his cats. **Cookie Novak** continues to live in Iowa but is headed to Florida for a winter break.

- **Jamie Credle** is on the faculty of the Jekyll Island Management Institute and will present a session on "Museum Interpretation" Monday, January 24 to participants in the museum professional development forum.

SPOTLIGHT

Lauren Purcell



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

Lauren: About two years ago I responded to an ad in Craigslist calling for an actress to play a part in the Yellow Fever production. I had just completed a job as a stand-in for the film *"The Last Song"* and was looking to get back into community theater.

But I became a part time staff member this past summer when I was hired to replace Jody Leyva as shop assistant when Jody took a full-time job at David's Bridal.

DH: How long have you been into acting?

Lauren: Since I was very young. When I was nine or ten, I used to write plays and force my younger cousins to act the parts. We used to do a Christmas play every year for the family. But I only had one male cousin, so we had to improvise. For instance, my sister had to play both the surly innkeeper in Bethlehem and Mary. Also, we didn't have three wisemen, but three wisepersons.

DH: When did you begin to expand your acting experience?

Lauren: When I went to high school, I began to participate in dramatic programs with the City of Savannah. When I was 16, I was in the **Wizard of Oz**. There were only two dressing rooms for all the cast members so it was really crowded. Later I got involved in some community theatre programs. I was in **Cinderella, Save the Dragons** but one of my favorite parts was when I got to play the crocodile in Peter Pan.

DH: Are you from Savannah originally?

Lauren: I was born at a hospital right here in Savannah, though my parents' house was in Pembroke at the time. I lived in Pembroke until I was 14 and then we moved to Claxton. I liked Claxton a lot better because there was more to do and they had a great BBQ place called

Harry's BBQ. It was quite the gathering place on Friday nights.

DH: Where did you go to college?

Lauren: I was a transient student. I took classes from a lot of different schools, including Armstrong, SCAD, Georgia Southern and Berry College in Rome. But I got my degree from Berry in Journalism and Mass Communications.

DH: What career are you interested in?

Lauren: I am trying to get into a special Master of Liberal Arts program at AASU. I'd like to pursue travel writing with a focus on history and culture.

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

Lauren: I really like the wallpaper and furniture in Isaiah's office. I also love the fake food in the dining room but I hate going in there when I'm hungry.

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

Lauren: One of the funniest things I remember happened this past summer. The last tour of the day was nearing its end and I was getting ready to close out. All of a sudden, several older women in high heels came rushing down the stairs because they had just seen their trolley go by. They got blocked up at the door because they couldn't get it open but when they did, they ran down the street shouting after the trolley for half a block before it finally stopped. I had never seen a trolley stop in the middle of the street, but this one did. It was hilarious.

DH: What do you like to do when you're not here?

Lauren: I love looking after four dogs. They're not all mine but I take care of them. There are three miniature dachshunds and one Sheltie/Whippet mix. I also have a garden that I like to spend time in. Right now I'm just trying to keep things alive. I have herbs, spices, vegetables and I just bought a small key lime tree but I'm keeping that inside for now.

A Look at the DH Guest Register:

Though visitation seemed to slacken a bit last month, we still had guests visit us from 40 states, including one couple all the way from Hawaii. Most of our visitors were from close to home, though. Floridians and Georgians were the most numerous but California, Ohio and Pennsylvania posted some good numbers as well. Foreign visitors came from eight countries – Australia, Brazil, Canada, England, Guatemala, Portugal, Scotland and Venezuela.

Where They Heard About Us (in descending order of frequency)

Tour Guides (cited by name: Lindsey Scott, Molly McLaughlin, Madison, Architectural Tours, Juliette Gordon Low House and Andrew Low House), internet, trolley tours (cited by name: Old Town Trolley, Oglethorpe, Old Savannah Tours), walking by, guide book (cited by name: AAA, Lonely Planet, Frommer's), brochure, friend, relative, visitors center, concierge (cited by name: Kehoe House, Marshall House), travel agent, map, HSF, TV ads, return visit, CMA, newspaper, and Eugenia Price books.

What They Had To Say

"Lindsey was a great tour guide."
"Thanks for supporting children in service." "Milla was great." "A step back in time." "Extremely beautiful house!" "Amazing!" "Excellent." "Can't wait to come back!" "Great tour. Person very informative." "OMG - loved it!" "Great tour guide, Maria!" "Marty is vibrant." "Lovely restoration, very good tour! Thanks, Dirk!" "Love the TN girl. We'll send you moonshine." "Sweet!" "Impressed!" "An excellent insight into the 19th C." "Excellent - the only one we selected to see while here!" "Marty was a fantastic guide!" "Very interesting lifestyle depicted in tour." "Wonderful preservation of history." "Christmas tour is recommended." "I love old houses" "We loved the tour and are very grateful to the 7 & society." "Pat was great as a guide."

Management of Fires and the Early History of the Savannah Fire Department

FIRE DEPARTMENT BEGAN IN 1758

First Organization Followed Filature Fire

LARGEST FIRE IN 1820

By the time the colony of Georgia was four years old and had grown to a town of 200 frame dwellings, it experienced its first fire, but not until 1758, when the filature was destroyed, did the development of the present modern fire department begin.

In the intervening 25 years, citizens with water buckets were the only guard against the ravages of fire. In 1758 a hand pump was purchased, and the General Assembly forbade the building of wooden chimneys. The next year fifteen citizens formed the first company, and thirty years later the Friendly Fire Club was organized.

When the city's first board of aldermen was elected in 1790, one of its first acts was to raise money for the purchase of fire engines. A year later, the first was turned over to the **Friendly Fire Club**, which built a fire house just large enough to house the new equipment.

Despite these precautions, a disastrous fire occurred in 1796, destroying many of the city's finest buildings and leaving hundreds of persons homeless. A board of ten was elected to have charge of fire prevention measures, but soon afterwards two fire managers were named to see that the board attended to its duties.

By 1803, fire prevention methods had improved, and seven engines and a fire boat were maintained, But on January 11, 1820, Savannah experienced the worst fire in the history of the United States up to that date.

All but a few brick buildings were destroyed in the raging flames which enveloped the main section of the city and caused a loss of \$8,000,000.

Seventy-five free negro men were allowed to form a company, and rewards were paid, first to the first citizen to sound the alarm, and later to the first company which played water on the fire. Following an act of the General Assembly, the city established its first organized fire department with 20 members but, the work at the fires was performed by negroes. . . .



Savannah Morning News. October 13, 1937

FIRE!

Last evening between 7 and 8 o'clock, our city was put in motion by the appalling cry of Fire! It proved to be a stable on the lot of Major Bourke, corner of President and Barnard streets. Fortunately it was still and damp evening; and by the spirited and active exertions of the firemen and citizens, it was gotten under without doing any other damage than consuming the building which first took fire. Several outbuildings were torn down in order to keep the flames from spreading. We have not been able to learn whether it was design or accident – It behoves our police to be on the WATCH!

Savannah Republican, December 21, 1820

From Live Oak Public Library (LOPL) vertical file:

- The first Fireman's parade was held on Saturday, August 6, 1795.
- On January 12, 1818, it was recommended that two dray horses be attached to the best engines in order to expedite their movement to fires.
- In 1821 seventy-five Free Men of Color were allowed to form the **Franklin Engine and Hose Co.** and **Union Axe and Fire Co.**
- In 1821 **Washington Hose and Axe Company** was organized.

From Stanley Levine article (in LOPL vertical file):

In 1824 the first real improvement in the fire service took place. An act was passed by the General Assembly by which the City of Savannah was invested with the power to appoint twenty-one firemen.

This was the first regularly organized fire department in the city. All of the engine houses, engines, ladders, buckets, hose and other implements were turned over to the **Savannah Fire Company**. This body elected their own chief fireman, first fireman and second fireman, subject to the approval of Council. No salaries were paid, and all vacancies by death, resignation or otherwise were filled by Council upon recommendation of the fire company. The Savannah Fire Company made their own by-laws and rules, and had the right to expel any of its members for violation of company rules, or city ordinances. They were authorized to employ a clerk at the salary of \$8.00 per month. The work at fires was performed by "**Free men of color, free negroes and hired slaves.**" The City Scavenger "*on the breaking out of fire*", was required to "*order his carts at different*

Charles Seton Henry Hardee's "*Recollections of Old Savannah*," *Georgia Historical Quarterly*, 12(4), 1928.

places where the public buckets, fire hooks, ladders and other implements for the extinguishment of fires are kept, and to assist in carrying the same to the fire or to such place or places as may be directed by the firemen."

The ordinance of **March 11, 1825**, provided that the City Marshal "*immediately take an account of the colored and negro firemen between the ages of sixteen and sixty and make a return of the same to the Chief Fireman.*" Each reenrolled free man of color was required "*to furnish himself with a cap or hat*" on which shall be put the initials F.C. "*to be worn when ever he is on duty.*" If any enrolled free man of color or free negro failed to answer an alarm they were subject to a fine in a sum not exceeding ten dollars, or be imprisoned in the common jail for a period not less than five nor more than fifteen days. Free men of color (free negroes) enrolled as firemen were exempt for poll tax. Once a month the free men and slaves were ordered out "*for the purpose of playing off the engines and drilling in the use of them, cleaning and keeping in good condition the ropes, buckets, hose ladder engines;*" and any failure to attend these drills subjected the offending party to a fine not exceeding ten dollars or imprisonment not exceeding fifteen days. Any member of Savannah Fire Company was authorized to order any citizen to "*assist in the filling of the engine with water during a fire and otherwise render assistance;*" and should any citizen refuse to obey such orders any member of the fire company was authorized to arrest him, bring him before the Mayor or any Alderman present, who was authorized to send him to the guard house until the next day, and on conviction he would be liable to a fine not exceeding thirty dollars; and the Clerk of Council "*Shall, when directed by Council, publish his name in the public gazette of the city at least once.*"

The ordinance required the Mayor and Aldermen to assemble at each fire to enforce the ordinances. It was a violation of the law for any one to ride in or through any street, lane or square in which the inhabitants were assembled for the purpose of extinguishing fire, except the commandant or the militia and his staff, and then only when it became necessary for him to communicate with the Chief Fireman.

In 1825-27 the fire department had regular parades and inspections on the last Saturday in each month. Twenty slaves were allowed to each company, and each slave was paid fifty cents for every parade.



p. 354 **Engines** "The hand engines in use were the best of the kind known at the time. They had a long handle bar on each side. By working these handle bars rapidly up and down, suction and propelling power was developed. The propelling power developed in this way was strong enough to force a

full stream of water to the top of a three story building. To get an engine to a fire it had to be dragged by the firemen through the heavy sand of the street by a rope attached to the tongue of the machine, a very slow and laborious process, but the best at command, for the Department was not furnished with horses, and the streets were not paved."

p. 355 **Fire buckets** "Fire buckets were brought into use shortly after the city was incorporated, and were still in use. They were a very important factor in fire fighting. They were made of heavy black leather, were about two feet in length, round in shape, with a strong leather handle across the top for easy handling, and capable of holding about three gallons of water. They were non-collapsible, and could be thrown from the top of the highest building without injury. In addition to the use made of them by the Fire Department, every householder was required, under heavy penalty, to keep on the premises convenient for use, a number of fire buckets equal to the number of fire places in the house."



p. 355 **Home fire protection** "Every house was also required to have a ladder of suitable length, and a scuttle through which access could be had to the roof of the house. It will be seen a glance that this was a very important requirement; for many an incipient fire, which have developed into a disastrous conflagration, if not promptly checked, could be easily extinguished by a few well directed buckets of water dashed upon it from the roof of the house."



p. 355 **bucket brigade** "Fire Masters had power and authority to compel bystanders to fall into line to pass the fire buckets. Many a time have I seen a double line formed for this purpose, one to pass full buckets to the place where the water was needed, and the other to pass back the empty buckets to be refilled. This method of fire fighting was in force until it was substituted by horse drawn fire engines in 1869."

p. 356 **Fire alarm** "A watchman was stationed in the belfry of the city exchange. It was his duty to ring the bell at every alarm of fire. If a fire occurred at night a lighted lantern on a long pole was thrust in the direction of the fire. This method of pointing out the direction of the fire was in force until the city was marked off into five fire districts. The watchman was then required to ring the bell violently for two minutes as a general alarm, then to toll the bell at short intervals, indicating by the number of strokes the district in which the fire was located. In addition to ringing of the bell by the watchman in the steeple of the City Exchange, the watchmen on the streets were required to fire off their muskets and spring their rattles as they ran through the streets, crying 'Fire! Fire! Fire!' at the top of their voices. What with ringing of the bell, firing off the muskets and springing of rattles an unearthly noise was made, loud enough not only to rouse sleeping men and women out of a sound sleep, but almost loud enough to wake the dead."



OYSTER ROAST RESPONSE CARD

Your contribution funds educational programs in the 1890 Kennedy Pharmacy, which was recently restored by the Davenport House. The building provides a venue for lectures and programs showcasing the fascinating history of preservation in Savannah.

I/We would like to attend this special event. _____ @ \$100 each
I/We would like reserved seating as a patron. _____ @ \$150 each
I wish to attend as a table sponsor (10 guests) _____ @ \$1,500

Enclosed is my check payable to Friends of the Davenport House for \$ _____
Or please charge my **Visa** or **MasterCard**.

Card # _____ Exp. _____ Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Use the back of this card to list all guests in your party. Only those names appearing on the GATE LIST will be admitted. An acknowledgement and driving directions will be sent to you after February 3. OR CALL 912-236-8097.



The Isaiah Davenport House Museum is the property of Historic Savannah Foundation.

Beaulieu Point

Once a camping ground for native Americans, the origins of colonial Beaulieu date back to 1737 when the land was deeded to William Stephens, Secretary of the Colony of Georgia. Stephens named the land after Beaulieu Manor in the New Forest, home of the Duke of Montague, since, he said, both places had,

‘...large timber growing everywhere near, moreover
a fine arm of the Sea running close by.’

Ships were built of oak harvested at Beaulieu, in the
area now known as Shipyard.

In 1779, when the British held Savannah, 1200 men landed at Beaulieu from a squadron of six French ships, and
Joined forces with General Pulaski.

In 1861, General Robert E Lee established a battery on Beaulieu Point. A bombardment began on Dec 15th 1864 and the Confederates evacuated the area, throwing carriages, ammunition and guns into the river. After Sherman’s occupation of Savannah, a small guard was kept at Beaulieu, Rose Dhu, Wimberly, Thunderbolt and Bona Ventura. Since the war, the Beaulieu property has been sold and divided. Eventually a street named Depot Road cut through the area, and was later named Beaulieu Avenue.

All the original homes on the property have been destroyed by fire.
The Groves family has been at Beaulieu since 1918, and the owner of the current house was able to install the old wrought iron balcony, reclaimed from the house from which her great grandmother watched General Sherman’s troops burn the family carriage.

Fittingly, our event will be on the anniversary day of the founding of Georgia, so come and join us for this fun event and learn more about the history of the 500 acres that form Beaulieu Point.