



Isaiah Davenport House Volunteer Newsletter

July 2011

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On a Lady Who Had a Blood Shot Eye



On! Let it be said, thine eye is all red,
No longer dear Harriet be moody,
Since so many die, by the stroke of that eye
No wonder the weapon is bloody.
July 6, 1820. [Columbia Museum](#).

A Wet Nurse Wanted,

Enquire at this Office.
July 15, 1820. [Savannah Republican](#).

NATIONAL PAINTING.

New-York, July 6

It is with great pleasure we learn that col. Trumbull's splendid painting of the "Surrender of Cornwallis," executed for the federal government, and designed for the hall of congress, is finished, and is about to be exhibited to the public at Washington Hall in this City."
July 20, 1820. [Savannah Republican](#).

CONSECRATION

To-morrow afternoon, the 21st inst. At 4 o'clock, the new Hebrew Synagogue will be dedicated to the worship of God. Appropriate Prayers and Psalms, with a discourse in English, will be delivered on the occasion. The doors will be thrown open to such persons as may wish to witness the ceremony.



The congregation are hereby notified.
July 20, 1820. [Savannah Republican](#)

DAVENPORT HOUSE CALENDAR:

JULY 2011

- Tuesday, July 5 from 2 until 4:30** – Docent Training Program (orientation), with Daniel Carey at 4 p.m.
- Thursday, July 7 from 6 to 8 p.m.** – Junior Interpreter Program (first year)
- Saturday, July 9 from 4 to 10 p.m.** – Garden Rental

Monday, July 11 from 6 to 7:30

p.m. – Walking the Squares for Junior Interpreters

Tuesday, July 12 at noon

– Davenport House Committee meeting
- **2 to 4:30 p.m.** – Docent Training Program (interpretation content)

Thursday, July 14 from 6 to 8 p.m.

– Junior Interpreter Program (first year)

Saturday, July 16 from 4 to 8 p.m.

– Garden Rental

Monday, July 18 from 6 to 7:30

p.m. – Walking the Squares for Junior Interpreters

Tuesday, July 19 from 2 to 4:30

p.m. – Docent Training Program (tour logistics)

Thursday, July 21 at 8:30 p.m.

– Davenport House Endowment Directors Quarterly Meeting
- **6 to 8 p.m.** – Junior Interpreter Program (first year)

Friday, July 22 at 11:30 a.m.

– Volunteer Summer Salad Luncheon

Monday, July 25 from 6 to 7:30

p.m. – Walking the Squares for Junior Interpreters

Tuesday, July 26 from 2 to 4:30

p.m. – Docent Training Program (safety, sample tour)

SHOP NEWS:

-Love those vases with historical precedent! From the Williamsburg Collection: We have a new line of finger vases both large and small which are highlighted with green accents (Design: Meadow – small \$9.95 and large \$16.95). Also, we have a lovely round vase with flower designs of 18th century botanical prints (\$29.95).
- Sale: The DH Shop is having a close out sale on ceramic bathroom sets. They are beautiful with a cup, soap dish and lotion dispenser (regularly \$29.95 but on sale for \$15.95).



- **New Shipments:** See the new selection in the **jewelry** case at the front desk.

Also, see the new selection of **condiments and dressings** with the DH label. The shop now carries fig preserves with ginger (\$4.95), Vidalia onion poppy seed salad dressing (\$4.95) and Vidalia onion and creamy ranch salad dressing (\$4.95).

DOCENT NEWS:

- **Docent Training:** The schedule for the summer **Docent Training Class** is Tuesday afternoons from 2 to 4:30 p.m. beginning July 5 through July 26. Currently there are four recruits signed up. There is room for additional attendees and veteran docents are welcome to attend any and/or all sessions. **Daniel Carey** will be the special guest speaker on Tuesday, July 5 at 4 p.m. to talk about the **History and Future of Historic Preservation in Savannah**. The agenda for training is: Tuesday, July 5 – Review of Expectations, Institutional Organization, History of the Davenport House, Preservation Movement discussion. Tuesday, July 11 – Architecture, Evolution of the House's Interpretation, Tour Content, Room Studies (1st floor). Tuesday, July 19 – Art and Science of Interpretation, Barriers to Communication, and Room Studies (remainder of the house). Tuesday, July 29 – Safety Procedures, What Not to Say, and Sample Tour.
- **Someone asked, "Are the wall-papers American or French?"**
Here is what we know:
- **Entrance Hall and Up the Stairs. Marble Ashlar:** FRENCH circa 1820-1830. Ashlars, or square building stone patterns, were commonly used in public areas such as hallways and passages. One perceived advantage of this type of pattern in high-use areas was that it could easily be repaired by cutting and pasting a spare



piece over the soiled blocks. Precise dating of this specific pattern is difficult to determine as ashlarls were popular from 1800 until the early 1840s. The design can be printed in tone-on-tone configurations such as green-on-green, blue-on-blue, or variations of ochre.

- **Office Wallpaper:** AMERICAN (Janes & Bolles Collection) 1822-1827. **Ornament and Stripe.** Adelphi's Janes & Bolles Collection is reproduced from the earliest known American wallpaper sample book, now in the collection of Old Sturbridge Village. It was produced by the firm of Janes & Bolles, which operated from 1822-1827 in Hartford, Connecticut. The sample book provides 22-inch square samples of each pattern, with alternate colorways for most of the patterns. Adelphi offers the Janes & Bolles papers in their original or in customized colorways.

- **Drawing Room and Morning Room:** **Draperie Josephine**, Classical Revival paper. ORIGINALLY PRODUCED IN FRANCE during the Empire and Federal Era.

- **Bedroom Wallpaper:** **Toile de la Fountain.** The original document for this pastoral figure pattern was found on a FRENCH folding screen in Adelphi's collection.



Though printed around 1815 it appears to be based on circa 1780 Continental engraving. Also, it may possibly relate to an earlier textile; certainly it resembles a *toile de Jory*.

- **Dining Room:** **Vine and Paisley.** FRENCH circa 1820. This pattern was discovered in the front parlor of a Greek Revival farmhouse in Schuylerville NY, along with Adelphi's Grape Cluster Frieze and the Greek Key Border, which was used to trim the doors and windows. All three papers were printed by the French firm of Jacquemart et Bernard.

- In looking up wallpaper information we realized that decisions about our wallpaper, etc. were made 10 years ago! And it appears that the

Drawing Room/Morning Room wallpaper was "Reproduced by Classical Revivals, Hamilton-Weston Historic Handprint Collections" or "Mauny of France." The pattern does not appear in the Adelphi Collection online.

JUNIOR INTERPRETERS:

- **New JI class:** Welcome our new JI class – **Betsy Chapman**, sophomore, Brenau Academy, **Deanna Clark**, sophomore, Savannah Christian, **Leanne Mims**, senior, Richmond Hill High, and **Gabrielle Rashleigh**, junior, Savannah Country Day. **Frances Colón** taught the June 23 class.

- **Ji Impact Research:** Eastern Michigan School of Education Graduate student **Lindsey Burton** conducted a focus group with "grown up" JIs on June 13. **Alyssa Stevens, Shateara Hall, Anthony Sanchez, Anna Hendrix, Becca Dawson** and **Emily Pickels** attended and discussed the impact the program has had on their lives. Their comments will form the basis for a survey Burton will conduct with as many former JIs as she can find. Following the survey, she will analyze the data and write a summary.



- **Veteran JIs:** **Taylor Woods, Ellie Darbyshire, Kim Stratsny, Lindsey Braden, Lindsey Deering, Leah Wade** and **Annelise Wornat** attended the JI refresher in June.

VOLUNTEER SALAD LUNCHEON:

The DH will hold its Annual Volunteer Summer Salad Luncheon on **Friday, July 22 at 11:30 a.m.** and we hope to see you all there. There is a sign-up on the kitchen door for you to note if you plan to bring a salad or dessert. Jamie Credle will deliver the

program on her experiences attending the **Program in New England Studies** this past



June. Some of the topics she will cover include the link between Dav-enport and his native region, operations and maintenance at Historic New England properties, how the DH's interpretation and furnishings plans holds up in comparison with HNE sites, etc.

INTERN PROJECTS:

- **Amy Jackson**, student at Wesleyan College in Macon, is indexing newsletters.

- **Stephanie Blanksheim**, student at SCAD, is working with Jamie on the annual maintenance survey. On June 24 she helped repack the stash of "hurricane" sandbags with Raleigh Marcell!

WORTH MENTIONING:

- **New security light:** A new light fixture was installed on the west side of the house in June.

- **20th Century DH History:** On a visit to the museum, Patsy Wiggins discussed her husband Bobby Ray Wiggins visiting his first cousin Jeanette Tillman (Phillips of Fleming, Ga.), who lived on the first floor parlor level apartment facing the street. He was older than Jeanette so he walked over from 1549 E. St. Julian Street to visit his aunt, Mary Tillman. His mother Ola Wiggins and Mary Tillman were sisters. She said he remembered playing on the steps and going into the confectioner/grocery (where Jamie's office is) to buy candy.

- **GroupOn:** The DH was offered for the deal-of-the-day on June 3 and there were 195 takers!

- **While we catch our breath:** Schedules for important partnerships are now in hand for 2012. Our evening Madeira tour schedule is just in for 2012 dates beginning on March 22 through the spring and then September 7 through mid- October. Thirty dates (Thursday and Friday evenings) were approved. Thank you to **Convention Consultants** for

coordinating the schedule. **Savannah Tour of Homes and Gardens'** has confirmed our evening **Trolley Back in Time** – Madeira/Seaport Life program for Friday, March 22.

AND, the DH was sought out because of its reputation for quality programming to be a part of the **Road Scholars** (former called Elderhostel) schedule. Jamie Credle and Jeff Freeman will tag team (They hope to get an understudy or two – Are you interested?) to present **“How to Save a House”**: **Davenport House Museum in Savannah** which will combine the “top to bottom” preservation tour Jamie gives with the “Highlights of the Collection” tour Jeff gives. There are ten dates in the fall (from 9:30 through 11:10 a.m. Tuesdays and Wednesday September 27 through November 9) and twenty-two dates in the spring (Tuesdays and Wednesdays, February 21 through May 16). Because of these bookings, the museum will not schedule public offerings of the **“Our Old House”** or **“Highlights of the Collection”**. They may be booked on a request basis.

- **Frances Colón**: Our friend Frances, who was featured in last month's Spotlight, has been hired as HSF's administrative assistant. Hurray for Frances!

- **Funny**: A docent noted the photograph in the basement hall as “Hugh,” but the guest must have heard, “The photograph is of you.” The guest said, “No, it's not.” It took a bit a conversation to clear that all up.

HISTORY STUFF:

Population of Savannah – 1810
5,213, **1820** 7,523 – 44.3%, **1830**
7,303 – 2.9%

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

John Leonti

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



John: Gayle Mongrandi and Dottie talked me into taking the docent training course.

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

John: I have two degrees in photography and have worked in the industry for 45 years. I worked for Agfa which is an European multinational corporation for 29 years as director of professional sales for the U.S.

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

John: My favorite thing about the D.H. is the inventory list and the how the house is set up.

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

John: My first tour had 17 people on it which was a little intimidating but it was fun.

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

John: The people.

DH: Where are you from originally and how long have you been in Savannah?

John: I was born in Brooklyn, New York. I moved to Savannah this past January.

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

John: I lived in Queens and also Waldwick, NJ but I have to say Savannah is my favorite.

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

John: Spring and fall are my favorite times since I play golf three times a week!

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

John: Gayle and I love to visit the historic sites and enjoy the history of Savannah.

A look at the DH guest register:

During the month of June 2011, the DH saw visitors from 40 states and 11 nations. Florida, Georgia, Ohio and Texas were listed most often but we had folks from as far away as Hawaii, Washington and

Maine. Foreign visitors hailed from Australia, Canada, England, France, Germany, Holland, Ireland, Japan, Nigeria, Switzerland and Wales. Interesting hometowns include Twenty-nine Palms, CA, Peal, IA, Kevil, KY, Cotton Valley, LA, Kitten, ME, Petal, MS, Belgrade, MO, Solon, OH, Ooltewah, TN, Mukilteo, WA.

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

Tour Guides (Cobblestone Tours, Andrew Low, Mercer Williams, Ships of the Sea, Carriage Tour, JGL); Trolley Tour (Old Town Trolley, Oglethorpe Tours, Old Savannah Tours); Guide Books (AAA, Lonely Planet); Visitors Center; Internet; Brochure; Concierge (Kehoe House, Marriott, Spring Hill Suites); Friend; Walk By; Group On; book (Eugenia Price); Research; Repeat Visit; Relative; Map; Magazine; IIT Marine Base; Local.

What They Had To Say:

"Nice people." "Excellent example of the best of the past." "Great." "Amazing." "Love Savannah." "Wonderful tour!" "Wonderful - Susan a great guide." "Fascinating." "Thanks for historic preservation." "Gorgeous city." "Great job." "Miss Betty, great!" "Where was the kitty? I really liked the tour." "Thanks to the ladies who saved it." "Very nice to be able to see this." "Thank you for this very interesting visit." "Great tour. Easy to understand. Nice English speaking." "Nice furniture and interesting story." "Hurrah for history!"

Happy Independence Day!
Cherish Your Freedom!!





More Information on the Boys

By Jeff Freeman

Earlier this month, Jamie was contacted by a Mrs. Diller from Virginia who has been engaged in genealogical research on Davenport family descendants. At Jamie's request, I also spoke with Mrs. Diller and during our conversation she mentioned a website, heretofore unknown to me, that contains documents related to the Civil War experiences of Isaiah's sons. Always eager to learn more about the lives of the children who grew up in this house, I visited the website and discovered that **Footnote.com** offers among other things, images of war records and correspondences of participants both North and South still held in the National Archives. I was delighted to find references to **Hugh, Archibald** and **Dudley Davenport** as well as **Henry R. Jackson**, Cornelia's husband. The new information provides fresh insight into the lives of these men which I will share with you in this and future articles.

Last June you may remember, I discussed in detail the career of Archibald Davenport – his years of service in the **Savannah Volunteer Guard**, his resignation from that unit shortly after the war began and the formation of a new company, the **Tatnall Guards** under his command which was subsequently absorbed into the **Provisional Army of the Confederate States**. At that point, Archibald became captain of Company G, 1st Volunteer Regiment of GA commanded by **Colonel Olmstead** in the brigade of Brigadier General **H. W. Mercer**, Johnny Mercer's great-granddad. After that, the individual information on Davenport became somewhat sketchy as all I had to go on were the general

troop movements of the regiment. However, thanks to Footnote.com, I now have letters both by and on the behalf of Captain Davenport that reveal some of his personal experiences.

One such document is a letter written by Davenport in November 1863 to the Confederate Secretary of War **James A. Seddon** requesting a promotion.

*Savh 5th Nov 1863
Hon. James A. Seddon
Secy of War
Richmond*

*Sir:
Believing I am entitled to promotion,
I respectfully submit for your consideration the following facts.*

I have been associated with a volunteer corps in this my native city for over twenty years, held a commission for fifteen years and with the comp'y to which I was then attached was a portion of the command under Col/nw Br Genl/ A. R. Lawton which took possession of Fort Pulaski on 3 Jan'y 1861. I have served thus far during the war as Captain whilst my juniors in years and military experience are promoted around me.

As senior Capt I commanded four companies of the 1st Vol Regt Ga in Battery Wagner in the assault made by the enemy on 11th July last and served twenty days at that post in the siege of fifty eight days.

I have been before a regular constituted Board for examination of officers and by them pronounced proficient.

Believing our cause just I have endeavoured at all times to discharge my duty faithfully and hope with this statement of facts you may be disposed to grant my request.

I have the Honor to be

*Respectfully
A.C. Davenport*

Capt Co "G" 1st Vol Regt Ga

Battery Wagner was one of the earthen forts that supplemented the defenses of Charleston harbor located on Morris Island. In July of 1863, Union forces under Brigadier General Gilmore began a concerted campaign with war ships of the blockading fleet under Admiral Dahlgren to capture Battery Wagner as part of a larger effort to retake Fort Sumter. The campaign lasted from July to September 1863 and though Wagner was eventually abandoned by the Confederates, Sumter remained uncowed until the end of the war. Most people associate Fort Wagner with the assault on July 18th 1863 made famous by the movie "**Glory**" that was led by the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry composed mostly of African-Americans which resulted in the deaths of over 800 Federal troops. The action referred to by Davenport was a smaller attack which nevertheless was repulsed and resulted in an disproportionate ratio of Union to Confederate casualties. Why Davenport references the July 11th engagement rather than the July 18th battle may indicate that he was elsewhere on the 18th.

You may have noticed from the heading of Archibald's letter that he is writing from Savannah. Why was he here rather than with his unit? The answer is detailed in another document penned by William Bulloch, a

prominent Savannah physician and surgeon.

Capt. A. C. Davenport of Comp. G. 1st Reg Ga Vols having applied for a certification on which to ground an extension of leave of absence, I do hereby certify that I have carefully examined this officer and find that he is still suffering from Chronic Diarrhea from the effects of which he has suffered since the first day of October. And that in consequence thereof, he is, in my opinion, unfit for duty. I further declare my belief that he will not be able to resume his duties in a less period than thirty days from date or until the 16th day of December next. I therefore respectfully recommend that an extension of his Furlough be granted for that period of time.

Dated at Savannah GA.

Wm Gaston Bulloch

This 16th day of Novem 1863

Surgeon P. A. C. S.

Archibald's condition was far from unusual at that time. According to one source, "Civil War conditions created a perfect environment for dysentery and diarrhea to thrive. Men lived crowded together; ate poor diets of fried meat, bread, and coffee; used the same pan to cook their meal that they used to wash up; and went to the latrine upstream from their camp. Bowel disorders were the most prevalent illnesses on both sides of the Civil War and they killed more men than battle.... According to Union records of 1,739,135 cases, 57,265 Yankee soldiers died of dysentery or diarrhea, compared with 44,238 men dying in battle."

Archibald would continue to suffer from this illness for the next two months and would be hospitalized again for it in 1864. During his long recovery, however, he was not idle. He continued to press for a promotion, enlisting present and

former commanders, including Lawton, Mercer and H. R. Jackson as well as Georgia's governor, Joseph Brown.

*Executive Department
Milledgeville Georgia
November 20th 1863*

*Hon. James A. Seddon
Secretary of War*

Sir:

I learn that the name of Captain Archibald C. Davenport will be presented to your consideration for promotion in the Provisional Army. It comes to my knowledge that he has been for years connected with a volunteer organization in this State which for drill, discipline and soldierly accomplishments could challenge comparison, and that he was ever a distinguished officer of that organization. He was an ardent advocate of Southern Rights and of the independence of the south, and since the commencement of the war has been conspicuous at the head of his Company both for the discipline he has maintained and the perfection of drill to which he brought his command, and also for his own gallantry when brought into actions at Charleston. I earnestly recommend him for promotion to the rank of Colonel for which position I regard him as in all respects qualified -

*Very Respectfully
Your Obedt Svnt*

Joseph E. Brown

For whatever reason, in spite of the ardent appeals by Governor Brown and others, Archibald's quest for a promotion ended in failure. At the start of the new year, perhaps because of his continued ill health, Captain Davenport was detached from his company and assigned to lighter duty.

*Hd Qr Mil Dist Ga
Sav 1st Jany 1864*

Special Orders,

No 1

x Capt A C Davenport Co G, 1st Vol Regt Ga is hereby detached from his company until further orders to act as Inspector of the State Guard called into service at this front. He will report at once to Br Genl H. R. Jackson comdg State Guard.

By command

Br Genl Mercer

/signed/ G A Mercer, A A Genl

The gentlemen signing this order was **Captain George A. Mercer**, Assistant Adjutant General, grandfather of Johnnie Mercer and son of Hugh Mercer.

We have also uncovered some interesting information on **Henry Davenport** within the past month. Through serendipity, I found online a New York collector who was offering for sale a *carte de visite* of Captain Henry K. Davenport for what seemed a reasonable price. *Carte de visites* are small photographs mounted on paper that were introduced in 1859 by a French photographer named A. A. Disderi. The standard format was a card 2 ¼ inches by 4 inches. They were relatively cheap to produce and they became immensely popular in the decade of the 1860's. It was fashionable for friends and family to exchange likenesses of each other and *carte de visite* albums became a ubiquitous item in the homes of the middle and upper classes. I informed Jamie of the sale and she jumped at the opportunity and purchased it. So we now have in our collections a photograph of the fourth of Isaiah's surviving sons. Since he is wearing the uniform of a captain, the image dates to between 1868 when he was promoted to that rank and 1872 which is the year that he died.

Once again, thanks to Footnote.com, we also know more about the circumstances surrounding Henry's death. We have known for years that he died in Franzenbad, Bohemia which is in present day Austria and that his demise was caused by hepatitis. However very little else was known. Now we have a copy of the death certificate signed by a U. S. Navy surgeon.

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

I hereby certify, that Henry K. Davenport who was a Captain in the United States Navy, while attached to the U. S. Ship, "Congress", (2nd Rate) and holding the rank above mentioned, departed this life at Franzenbad, Bohemia on the eighteenth day of August, in the year 1872, and that he died of disease originating in the line of duty as set forth in the record of his case, as follows: Captain Davenport had been in gradually failing health from the time of his joining this vessel in July 1871. He left the ship on a leave of absence, on the 27th June last, for the purpose of undergoing medical treatment at the baths of Bohemia. His disease was Chronic Hepatitis and Hypertrophy of the Heart, and in my opinion, originated in the line of duty, from exposure to climatic and other causes incidental to his long service in the Navy.
Edward Bogert, Surgeon, USN

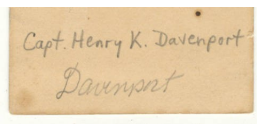
Chronic hepatitis is a viral infection that damages the liver and can last for years. Some symptoms are extreme tiredness, joint pain, muscle pain, stomach pain and itchy skin. It can lead to liver cancer, cirrhosis or liver failure, all of which are deadly. Hypertrophy of the heart is another term for enlargement of the heart and one of the most frequent causes is high blood

pressure. Symptoms include shortness of breath, pressure in the chest, palpitations, swelling in the legs, feet and ankles, light-headedness and blackouts and can often lead to heart failure.

Though still a fairly young man by today's standards, Henry's last years must have been difficult. Conditions at sea in the 19th century would have been a strain on the strength of a healthy man, but for someone in Henry's condition, the stresses would have been extremely debilitating. Nevertheless, he pursued to the last what he saw to be his duty and finally made the ultimate sacrifice for his country.



Carte de visite. Naval Officer. Henry K. Davenport. ca. 1868.



Identifying documentation on the back.

In the Service of the DH!

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