



Isaiah Davenport House Volunteer Newsletter



June 2011

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The genuine Seidlitz and Soda Powders

The high repute which these powders have acquired renders it almost unnecessary to offer any further remarks upon their virtues and utility. The Seidlitz-Powders form an agreeable aperient draught, the good effects of which have been observed in a variety of diseases, particularly in those where the stomach has rejected all other cathartic medicines. Consequently they have been found a most useful remedy in bilious and other diseases incidental to warm climates, they are much superior in every respect to the Mineral Waters generally in use and are two thirds cheaper, a box having been found equal to one dozen bottles of Congress or other Mineral waters.



A constant and fresh supply of the above valuable Medicine carefully preserved in tin boxes containing twelve draughts each can be obtained perfectly pure at the store of
Francis I. Lay
Chemist and Druggist, Shads buildings

Also in Store,
Congress and Ballston Spring Waters put up by Lynch & Clark N York. June 4, 1843, *Savannah Daily Republican*.

DAVENPORT HOUSE MUSEUM CALENDAR: May 2011

- Wednesday, June 1 at 9:30 a.m.** – Expo Focus Group Meeting
- Friday, June 3 all day** – KP rental
- Saturday, June 4 from 4 to 10 p.m.** – Garden Rental (reception)
- Thursday, June 9 at 5:30 p.m.** – Garden documentation visit Trustees Garden Club
- 5:30 to 7 p.m.** – All Staff Meeting (Hurricane Season Review and Disaster Training)

Either Friday, June 10 at 4 p.m. or Monday, June 13 at 6 p.m. – tentative focus group with JIs (See thesis work under JIs below)

Monday, June 13 at 5 p.m. in the KP – Victorian Society in America/Savannah Chapter board meeting

Tuesday, June 14 at 6:30 p.m. – Veteran JIs refresher with pizza

Thursday, June 16 from 6 to 8 p.m. – Summer Junior Interpreter Program

Friday, June 17 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Hands-on-History Camp at the DH

Saturday, June 18 from 4 to 7 p.m. – Garden Rental (wedding ceremony)

Thursday, June 23 from 6 to 8 p.m. – Summer Junior Interpreter Program

Saturday, June 25 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. – Garden rental (wedding ceremony)

Monday, June 27 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. – Veteran JIs walk the squares

SHOP NEWS:

- **Miracles Happen:** Shop manager **Ben Head** returned to his post in mid-May after a serious illness. As he gathered strength during the month, shop assistants pulled extra duty. A huge and heartfelt thank you to **Beth Kinstler** who took on the task of interim shop manager and to **Lauren Purcell** who also worked extra hours during the spring.

- **New Book:** Look for Savannah and the State of Georgia: Cool Stuff Every Kid Should Know by Kate Boehm Jerome and published by Arcadia. It retails for \$9.99.

- **Office stuff/New system:** In June a new point-of-sale (what those in the biz call a "p.o.s.") system will be installed in the cash register's computer allowing staff to

create and generate reports, etc. for more efficient shop management. **Paula Cummins**, comptroller, HSF found the software and will be the tech person for it.

DOCENT NEWS:

- **THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN THIS NEWSLETTER** – Know what to do

if you have a fainting

guest: The heat of the summer is upon us and we have already had one fainting episode by a guest.



Know what you would do if someone faints on your tour: If you see someone going down and you have the fortitude to stand behind him/her and wrap your arms around the guest to help the guest to the floor, then do that. Seek assistance: **Carry a cell phone with you** and have the shop number keyed in. If you do not have your cell phone RUN and get a staff member and ask for help. Get water. Discuss with the fainter's companion any issues (pregnancy, dehydration from walking the city). Wait for assistance from staff and then as quickly as possible, move the rest of your group on and let the staff or others handle the situation. You will need to assist with completing the accident report. **AS FOR YOURSELF** (and your guests), keep hydrated. Drink water. We will have electrolyte boosting drinks in the refrigerator throughout the summer. Drink if you need to.

- **Myth of the Month:** A visitor asked a docent, "What is the roof made of?" and the reply was "Tin." The Davenport House's roof is made of **terne coated stainless steel** ("terne" is an alloy used for preservation). We suspect the original roof was slate (as slate fragments were found in the rafters) but by the mid-19th century



(when the Sanborn Insurance Map people began documenting city structures) the original roof had been replaced with a tin roof. There were probably several different tin roofs installed through time. The stainless steel roof was installed in 1989 after a fundraising effort. This roof should last “a lifetime.”

- **As per last month’s “What happened to the slaves?” question:** We forgot (momentarily) the research **Mary Ann Scott** conducted in 2007 with census records. The 1830 census negated the idea that Sarah’s slaves were sold to settle Isaiah’s estate as she had 12 or 13 slaves three years after Isaiah’s death. “Her slave property accounted for a good deal of her financial worth until the Civil War. The 1860 census lists Sarah’s personal property as being \$7,500 and containing no real estate. One assumes the bulk of her property was her slaves.” We do not know what happened to the enslaved people after freedom came.

- **DTP:** We will offer the **Docent Training Program** in July. Please help us spread the word about the opportunity. As we get interested prospective participants, we will email them about their preferences of the dates and times for the class.

- **So Long:** As summer has arrived we know many of our good and faithful friends will leave or have already left for cooler climes. We hope they know we will miss them and anticipate their return “home” in the fall.

- **Thank you so much:** Many of you pulled “extra weight” during the busy season -- either managing large numbers of guests on every tour you gave or working pre-scheduled groups. We forget how busy it gets until we are in the throes of “the season.” The success of this crazy time depended on your willingness to help out – and you were willing, cheerful and energetic. Thank you!

STAFF PREP:

-You will be hearing more about hurricane and disaster preparedness over the next



few months as the height of the 2011 Atlantic Hurricane Season approaches. The DH staff will have a **Hurricane Prep and Disaster Review** on Thursday, June 9 at 5:30 p.m. Pizza is part of the prep!

-**Chatham County Hurricane Conference:** **Jamie Credle** attended the annual conference which was held on May 24. Materials from the conference will be shared with staff on June 9th and in the July DH newsletter.

GARDEN:

- **Spring Garden**

Planters: Gaye Drummond and Frances Colón assisted **Raleigh**

Marcell in planting the garden pots and parterre in early May. These plants should get us through October. The **Italian Pots** are planted with: Zinnia Zahara – Zamara Mix, Pentas Lanceolata, Scavola – Saphira, Sweet Potato Vine, Plectranthus Mona Lavender, Black Ruffles Colcasia (Elephant’s Ear), Oxblood Coleus, Pretoria Canna, Strobilanthes – Persian Shield. **Parterre Garden:** Angelonia Angustifolia (purple).

- **Trustees Garden Club documentation:** The DH has a long-standing and grateful relationship with **Trustees Garden Club**. Hopefully you know that our courtyard and garden (the acquisition, planning, funding, construction and planting) was a Bicentennial project of the Trustees Garden Club. In the 1990s the club got re-involved in a serious way with the rethinking of DH garden plantings. The club has always looked on the DH with favor and friendship. In this spirit, club’s members have taken on documenting – through photographs and written descriptions – our garden as part of the **Archives of American Gardens** initiative through the **Smithsonian Institution**. The Smithsonian is working with the **Garden Club of America** to do the work to preserve America’s garden history for future generations. Through the next three seasons Trustees Garden Club photographers will take photos and write a history of the garden,



which will be housed and referenced through the Smithsonian.

JUNIOR INTERPRETERS:

- **Summer:** The Summer Junior Interpreter Program will be offered June 16 through July 28 on Thursday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. to local young people who will become tour guides at the museum. We continue to have space for high school age participants. Please help us spread the word about this opportunity. Along with learning the history of the house and site, participants learn communications skills and customer service skills – all which will serve them well in the future. Note: The program also offers good snacks and craft activities – just for fun.

- **Veteran Junior Interpreters:** We hope veteran Junior Interpreters will reacquaint themselves with the DH over the summer. For those interested in remembering all they learned in past summers or past Octobers, we will have a refresher (on the house’s interpretation and tour giving) and welcome to summer pizza party on Tuesday, June 14 at 6 p.m. And, beginning June 27 and lasting through the next four Mondays veteran JIs will gather and walk the squares. Each Monday the group will walk a series of squares and by the end of the summer they will have walked and learned about all 24 squares. Note: If you would one day like to get your license to give tours in Savannah, knowing the squares is a cornerstone of the licensing test. Participating in this program is a social and recreational way to reconnect with the DH (and we usually have popsicles).

- **Calling All Former JIs:** The DH was contacted by a graduate student at East Michigan University who was looking for an education project on which to base her Master’s project. What has evolved is a project which we hope will gauge the long term impact of the Junior Interpreter Program on participants. We hope to get together 4



to 8 former JIs to conduct a focus group and the study will follow from that.

- Davenport House Community Service Scholarship: Over the past years, the Davenport House Museum has produced a remarkable



Raven and her parents
Gloria and Charlie Bryant

number of Junior Interpreters who have gone on to become stand-out students in high school and

later in college. To acknowledge this record, in March 2011 the Davenport House Endowment Directors initiated a scholarship for an outstanding high school student who demonstrates qualities which put the museum and its community in the best light. After thoughtful pondering, one candidate rose to the top, **Raven Bryant**, a student at Savannah Arts Academy. Raven is both an employee and a volunteer at the Davenport House. She was a participant in the 2008 Savannah Arts Academy Junior Interpreter Program. From the beginning, her tour presentation was a model for her fellow JIs. This past fall the museum needed someone to staff our gift shop during a living history program every Friday and Saturday night in October and Raven agreed without hesitation. Raven attends Junior Interpreter meetings regularly, helps with programs such as SuperMuseumSunday and the Christmas living history program as well as the Savannah Garden Expo. Until we began to consider Raven for this scholarship, we were unaware of her academic excellence. She is currently number 3 in her class of 169 and has a grade point average of 4.0. She attended the Governors Honors Program majoring in Social Studies over the summer 2010. She is a Girl Scout and is a leader of her church's youth (First Union Baptist Church). She will attend Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN this fall.

- Graduating JIs: We are proud of all the young people, who have given of themselves during their high school careers. This spring five Junior Interpreters, who found a way to be involved with the museum throughout their high school years, are graduating. We are thankful for: **Raven Bryant** of Savannah Arts Academy, **Rebecca Carter** of Savannah Arts Academy, **Irving Smith** of Jenkins High School, **Yara Rodriguez** of Savannah Arts Academy and **Taylor Woods** of Savannah Christian High.

- Ya'll, They Were Terrific!: JIs Entertain Georgia Association of Retired Teachers. Last February **Hugh Golson** asked Jamie to get a group of Junior Interpreters together to entertain the annual conference of retirees. She said "yes" without really thinking about it – and May seemed so far into the future. As March then April passed, a tinge of panic rolled in. After condensing a living history script from 2007 into 10 minutes (remember "1824" – dueling, hurricanes and of course yellow fever), Jamie rehearsed with JIs a few times, and somehow it came together because of the terrific young people who are involved with the museum. Four JIs



– **Raven Bryant** (SAA), **Cassidy Hatcher** (Johnson High School), **Lindsey Scott** (SAA) and **Madison Thomas** (SAA) – rehearsed and performed for the crowd. They had no real idea what to expect when they walked into the ballroom at the Hyatt – to a crowd of 500 people! Yikes! Raven said in a very calm way, "There are a lot of people in here." Hugh introduced the DH and the Junior Interpreters with fanfare. Our JIs elocuted and orated in

fine fashion – All terrific students -- including Madison who had a fever! And, as a finale for all – **Jamal Touré** (in character) walked in just in the nick of time – having been misinformed about which hotel the convention was – Hyatt or Hilton. He wowed the crowd with his Geechee discourse. Great people doing good things!

- JI Photographer: JI **Carlie Ayn Williams** edited the photos she took at the Expo and they are now up on our Facebook page. See "Davenport House Museum" and become a fan.

DONATION IN MAY:

The Dolan Family Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation
Downtown Neighborhood Association
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Hungerpiller
Mrs. Martha Lamarche
Mrs. Carol McCloskey
Southern States Educational Foundation, Inc.
J. T. Turner Construction Company, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Richard D. Williams

NOW WE CAN EXHALE: HUGE BUSY SEASON:

- It has been a busy fourteen weeks – since the beginning of March! We were particularly hectic in May.

- Garden Party: Though we feared threatening weather, the May 15th garden party turned out to be lovely both because of the weather and the celebrants. Over 100 of the museum's favorite people attended. (See the photos posted on Facebook). Staff laughs that the annual gathering is our "party with no agenda" which is not exactly true. The point is to thank Friends and Volunteers for their commitment to the museum throughout the year. Volunteers including Davenport House Committee members filled the food table with treats. **Joe Flanders** played guitar. For the first time this year, the museum community recognized a young person with a scholarship for service to

the museum. **Raven Bryant**, who was accompanied by her parents – Charlie and Gloria Bryant – and several aunts, accepted the award with joy. One of Raven’s teachers noted how gratifying it is for a young person to find her niche and become a success. Happiness was all around and DH’ers ate and drank their fill. Thank you to those who brought food, wine and/or provided funds for the spread. Also thank you to the Junior Interpreter helpers: **Lauren Booker, Jamillah Kelly, Annabelle Moe** and **Hannah Morales**.



And, thank you to Dottie, Beth, Jeff and Raleigh for getting the dishes done!

SPECIAL TOURS: THE DH HAD A NUMBER OF RECENT SPECIAL TOURS THAT REQUIRED MORE THAN THE ORDINARY COORDINATION.

- **On April 29** (as Kate and William were riding in the carriage from Westminster Abbey to Buckingham Palace), folks at the DH were planning for 70 Colonial Wars coffee drinkers and tour participants.

Thanks to **Frances Colón, Renée Fila, Jeff Freeman, Helen Linskey, Dirk Hardison** and **Dottie Kraft** for the early morning duty.

- **On May 4** we saw a group from Melbourne, FL with Harbor City Tours who requested a reception preceding their late afternoon tour. Thank you to Frances **Colón** for the extra help.

- We received a call from a PR rep with the Mansion on Forsyth Park/Bohemian Hotel requesting we present a tea program only not during the regularly schedule time and in an abbreviated form. So on **May 13th**, our cast of living history performers

- **Shannon Wichers, Lauren Purcell, Anne Hagan, Jeff Freeman, Raleigh Marcell** and **Jamie Credle** - presented a tea for the special group of journalists at 1:30 p.m. and

then took a breath and presented the regularly scheduled tea at 4:30 p.m. We are hopeful that the journalists will share the photos they took of the program with the DH! . . . or use them to promote DH programs in the publications they work for.

- On **Tuesday, May 17** the Davenport House hosted the annual **Downtown Neighborhood Association** picnic and grants presentation ceremony. Over 100 of our neighbors ate and drank in the garden – and hopefully appreciated the well-kept property. At the ceremony the DH was recognized as a host and as a museum with a check for \$1000. The DH was one of several community organizations which received grants the DNA provided through proceeds from their annual Christmas Tour of Homes.

- On **Wednesday, May 18**, the DH garden provided the setting for a University of Virginia alumni gathering which was a special property use of a 1733 Society member through HSF.

- And then came **Thursday, May 19:**



We got the call from **Fabulous Tours** late in the previous week requesting that a prescheduled group be changed

from Wednesday, May 18th to Thursday, May 19th and that the group size be revised from 24 to 140. Gulp! The DH folks took this request in stride and were able to execute the large group early in the a.m. Coffee, lemonade and sweet bread was served in the garden and docents – all were armed with good sense and lively interpretation – maneuvered the property to accolades. Thanks to **Frances Colón, Katherine Owens, Karen Halloran, Marty Barnes, Brooke Wilford, Raleigh Marcell, Jamie Credle, Jeff Freeman** and **Dottie Kraft**.

- **In a class unto themselves: Afterhours Madeira Tours in the Spring:** Over a nine week period the museum provided fifteen afterhours dates (593 guests participating) for exclusive Madeira tours. Thank you to the workers for the effort: **Fran-**

ces Colón, Roger Smith, Katherine Owens, Pat Fraker, Marty Barnes, Brooke Wilford, John Miller, Phyllis Champion, Charlotte Rehmer, Abby Schreiber, Pat Se-guare, Maria Sanchez, De Gass-man as well as **Jeff Freeman, Raleigh Marcell** and **Jamie Credle**

- **Tea Program:** The museum presented eight *Tea in the Garden* programs in May. The

cast of good and talented folks - **Shannon Wichers, Lauren Purcell, Anne Hagan, Jeff Freeman, Raleigh Marcell** and **Jamie Credle** – provided participants with



a wonderful memory of Savannah, the past and the DH. They put forth a huge commitment! Thanks to the bakers who provided the treats **Helen Linskey** (twice), **Karen Matteo, Charlotte Rehmer, Gayle Mongrandi** (twice), **Claudette Engvall, Judy Howell, Roseann Hooper, Kate** and **Paul Bathe**.

WORTH MENTIONING:

- **Strident About Parking:** The city has become stridently firm about the use of the loading zone on the Habersham Street side of the house. Buses are only to unload there. Buses are not allowed to park there and will be ticketed if they remain. We found this out the hard way in May. If a bus driver asks you about the Habersham Street load zone, please note it is not for parking.

- **Images requested:** Travelers on **American Airlines** -let us know if you see photos of the DH. Their American Way magazine requested images of the DH recently.

- **Tea Time** Magazine: We received the “heads up” that the museum’s May tea program was listed in the May/June 2011 issue of Tea Time.

- **Mentorseries.com:** The museum received a request for living history performers and the site’s availability for photographs on a Sunday morning. Hard to do. The sponsoring business provides study tours for amateur photographers. The group



of 40 photographers was met on Sunday, May 21 with several opportunities for pictures – some outdoors and requiring very little lighting, some in locations in the house with unique lighting or lighting challenges. Several wonderful folks volunteered to be models for the a.m. – **Anne Hagan** and **Jamie Credle** who were in the garden drinking tea, **Kelsey Chandler** who was in the garden looking lovely, Raleigh **Marcell** who was seated in the Office, and **Annabelle F. Moe** who was in the attic. Participants agreed to send the museum good shots which we may use for publicity and they promised to publish the photos themselves.

- **Summer Interns:** The DH is anticipating the good work of two interns this summer. **Stephanie Blankensheim**, a SCAD Historic Preservation student, will assist with the annual maintenance inspection and collections inventory. **Amy Jackson** of Wesleyan College will be involved with an impressions internship over a couple of dates during the summer. When Amy came to inquire about the internship – having driven from Macon, Jamie asked her to tour both the DH and OT and to write up her impressions.

The conclusion of her paper reads: *“My expectations for the both the Davenport House and the Owens-Thomas House were set really high. I was excited to learn about the lives of people not found in any of my history texts and just how they embodied southern culture, the unique history of Savannah, as well as hotbed social issues of their time. It must be noted that I was not disappointed in the wealth of knowledge I gained that day from both tours. I left feeling knowledgeable, historically fulfilled, and most of all a better sense of what I would like to do with my history degree.”*

- **GroupOn:** The DH anticipates another “GroupOn” **deal of the day** event on Friday, June 3 hoping to entice summer visitors to the site!
- **Davenport House Endowment Directors:** **Cornelia Groves** rolled

off as a Davenport House Endowment Director after her second series of six years since the DH Endowment was created. She continues to be our diligent advocate and a committed volunteer. Her place has been filled by **Frederick R. (Rick) Muller**, who will begin attending quarterly meetings in July. Everyone at the DH welcomes Rick and hopes he will find service to the museum meaningful and fun.

- **Kennedy Pharmacy: Bloomquist Construction** has repaired a rotten lower support on the exterior/Habersham Street side of the building.

- **Design Issues: David Bloomquist** and **Christian Sottile** have been consulted on ideas to bring to the DH Committee for linking the Kennedy Pharmacy and the DH through landscaping, etc. Look forward to discussion about this in the future.

- **Boston Bound: Jamie Credle** received a partial scholarship to attend Historic New England’s (formerly SPNEA) Program in New England Studies. She will be away participating in the program from June 18 through 26. Each day of her organized itinerary will involve discussions and learning about a century of architecture, decorative arts and social history. Her hope is to come to an understanding of Isaiah Davenport’s home region as well as see examples of museum stewardship and programming in another part of the country. Look forward to hearing about her travels.

Note: One of her required reading selections, **Richard Bushman’s The Refinement of America: Person, Houses, Cities**, will become part of the DH’s bibliography. She notes it is one of the best books she’s ever read for understanding and linking homes and possessions to the larger social context of American history. (Remember you can purchase used and out-of-print books at **ABEBooks** – often for cheap!)

- **Recipe:** One of the multitude of delicious offerings at the Garden Party table was the dip provided by Roger Smith. A volunteer asked for the recipe. You may want it as well!

Warm Vidalia Onion Dip

4 cups chopped Vidalia onions, patted dry with paper towels
24 ounces softened cream cheese
½ cup mayo
2 cups shredded Parmesan cheese
Preheat oven to 425. Mix all ingredients and spread into shallow casserole. Bake for 30 minutes. Contents may be moved to a serving bowl if desired. Serve with Frito “Scoops.”

DOCENT SPOTLIGHT

Frances Colón

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



Frances: I first came to know the Davenport House during February’s Super Museum Sunday. I took a tour and was so impressed by the Junior Interpreters and the history of the house that I asked what I could do to volunteer the same day. Three days later I started training to become a docent.

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

Frances: I worked for the Advanced Academy of Georgia at University of West Georgia as the Academy Residential Coordinator. Essentially, I managed the social and housing aspect of the program for 97 gifted high school Juniors and Seniors. It was a very valuable and rewarding experience.

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

Frances: I actually have two favorites, the first being in the Garden. It’s beautifully designed and it has such a peaceful atmosphere. Even when it’s full of people you can always find a quiet corner and enjoy the scenery. My second favorite is the attic. I really like the fact that it hasn’t been fully restored and you

get a real sense of the history and age of the house.

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

Frances: I was giving a tour and we had just stepped into the main entry. I was explaining that guests would have arrived through the grand entrance and suddenly the front door burst open and in walked three tourists! Our group had a good laugh about the impromptu demonstration and I sent the new guests around to the museum entrance.

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

Frances: I love what the Davenport House Museum represents; community, determination, hope, and the desire to educate future generations. From a simple spark of *communitas* came an entire movement that saved a city. How remarkable is that?

DH: How long have you been in Savannah? If not from Savannah, where are you from originally?

Frances: I've been in Savannah approximately 10 months. My dad was in the Army, so I consider my hometown to be the world rather than a specific place.

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

Frances: I've had the opportunity to live in Washington, Alabama, Germany, Puerto Rico, Missouri, Tennessee, Hawaii and 3 other cities in Georgia. As far as my favorite place... It's a tie between Germany and Hawaii. Hawaii was absolutely beautiful and the culture there is fascinating! Germany offered me my first taste of international living and fostered my love for cultures different from my own. Both experiences were integral in shaping who I am today.

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

Frances: Well, now that I've had nearly a full year in Savannah, I can easily say spring is my favorite sea-

son. Everything is in bloom, the weather is just right, and the pace of the city speeds up. I love it!

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

Frances: I usually like to play "tourist" in my own city and this is definitely a great city for it! I enjoy just walking around and finding discovering little hole in the wall shops or eateries. I also love how creative Savannah is. I try and take any opportunity to go to an art gallery opening or go listen to a local band play. I'm always finding something new.

A look at the DH guest register:

During the month of May 2011, the DH saw visitors from 41 states and 9 countries with Florida and Georgia again ranked at the top of our guests' originations, followed by California, Texas, New York, North Carolina, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Canadians led the way among our foreign patrons, followed by the Brits, Aussies, Chileans, Germans, Mexicans and ... people from Curacao. Interesting hometown names include: Demopolis, AL, Westcliffe, CO, Scottsmeer, FL, Rensselaer, IN, Imlay City, MI, Waterfowl, MI, Olean, NY, Minot, ND, Massillon, OH, Canyon Lake, TX, Mukilteo, WA, and Footville, WI.

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

Tour Guides (Ghost Tour, JGL), Trolley Tour (Old Town Trolley, Oglethorpe Tours, Old Savannah Tours); Guide Books (AAA, Frommer's, All-in-One Tours), Brochures, Concierge (Hyatt, Marriott, Springhill Suites, Staybridge Suites), Internet, Friends, Walk By; Visitors Center, Book (Eugenia Price), Magazine (Southern Living), Relative, School, Tour Planners, TV, Return Visit, National Historic Trust, Lo-

cal and **GroupOn**, ITT Marine Base.

What They Had To Say: "Very interesting architecture." "Great walking tour." "Beautiful & wonderful history." "Wonderful to see history preserved." "Very pleasant guide." "Nice tour. Will recommend." "Good tour." "Very interesting and great tour." "Great house!" "We love Marty!" "Marty was great." "Amazing." "Out of all three tours, the best guide Miss Betty!" "Betty was brilliant." "Lovely restoration." "Beautifully restored." "Tour guide - a sweetie." "Love this house!" "The garden was beautiful." "Wonderful Tea." "Thank you for preserving our history." "Great tour guide, Wilma!" "Thanks for a beautiful wedding." "I enjoyed the tour. It was great!" "Great history lesson." "Great insight into a beautiful house." "Lovely Tea." "Meg and house were great." "Nice people!" "Excellent example of the best of the past!" "I wanna see the cat & little girl." "Love Savannah!"



ICE CREAMS,

Made, Cordials and Pastry,
OF THE BEST QUALITY,
WILL be constantly kept by the subscriber
at the
Washington Gardens,
(HEAD OF THE BAY)
Where his friends and customers shall receive
respectful attention **W. CASS.**
Good wages will be given for three active
Boys, as waiters, at the above establishment.

Tidbits of History: Hugh McCall, Isaiah Davenport and W. R. Holland

In thinking of topics to expand and clarify our interpretation (which is the point of the content articles in the DH newsletter), DH staff thought it useful to come to an understanding of who **Hugh McCall** was and his relationship with Isaiah Davenport, because, you really have to be liked to be the namesake of someone's children. Isaiah and Sarah Davenport named their eighth child **Hugh McCall Davenport**. Without consulting the documentation (you should always consult the documentation) we asked fellow staff members "Who was Hugh McCall?," one offered, "Didn't he loan Isaiah Davenport money?" This conversation evolved into a look into who Hugh McCall was, what sort of relationship he and ID had, Mr. D.'s financial crisis of the 1820s and a young pharmacist named **W. R. Holland**.

Anyone who has spent time walking in the historic district knows of the grave markers in Colonial Cemetery. Among Colonial and Revolutionary leaders there is one at the grave of Hugh McCall which observes his authorship of the first history of Georgia and his severe handicap. To delve further into his biography, we "Googled" The History of Georgia and found a downloadable copy of volume 1 on Google Book which you can access. Featured on the front of the online edition is Hugh McCall's portrait, which is owned by the Georgia Historical Society. The introduction contains a biographical sketch of McCall written by his brother Thomas. It notes their Scottish ancestry and their family's residences before reaching Georgia in Ireland, Pennsylvania and North Carolina. Known as Major McCall, it describes Hugh's military service saying:

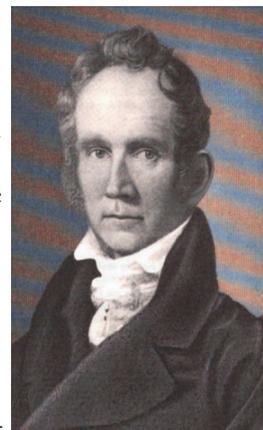
On May 12th, 1794, he was ensign of the 3rd sub-legion,

and May, 1796, he became first lieutenant. He was made deputy paymaster general January 31st, 1800, and August of the same year, he was advanced to the position of captain. On the reorganization of the army, in 1801, he was retained in the second infantry, and on July 10th, 1812 he was brevetted major. On July 15th 1815, he was mustered out of service. On March 31st, 1818, he became military store-keeper at Savannah and in May, 1821, he served in the same capacity at Charleston, South, Carolina. For eighteen months he lived at Point Peter (St. Mary's County). From 1806 to 1823, he was the jailer of Savannah, and it was during this period that he wrote his *History of Georgia*. . . .

It also suggests that the events of the Revolution impacted the teenage McCall and might have been a motivator for his writing. Thomas McCall characterizes the depth of his brother's contribution to America through his history of Georgia, expressing:

. . . this was not an age of books and official records and the experiences and traditions of those who actually took part in the War of the Revolution were fast fading from memory. . . . It was fortunate, indeed, for Georgia's early history that Major Hugh McCall . . . undertook to rescue from oblivion the history of his State, and fix in imperishable record of deeds of her distinguished sons. From his own notes and experiences, and from the lips of many of the chief actors of the scenes he portrays, his materials were taken, and with wonderful

patience and fortitude he prepared for the press the first volume of the *History of Georgia*, which was published in 1811.



Hugh McCall

Major McCall followed this in 1816 with a second volume which ended with the outcome of the Revolution.

Every description of McCall speaks of his physical pain and his disability, which we assume was a consequence of his military service. Woodward's Reminiscences of the Creek, or Muscogee Indians (1859) provides a contemporary description of his condition, "The jailer, or manager of the prison, was named McCall, and I think once wrote a history of Georgia. He was a bad cripple, unable to walk, and had to go over the floor in a little wagon constructed for the purpose, and a big negro man to carry him from one floor to another."

Because he was of Scottish descent we assume he was a Presbyterian and attended Independent Presbyterian Church. His brother notes he never married and offers that the Major lived in "moderate circumstances." Though if one compares his inventory (which is included in this newsletter) with Isaiah Davenport's one might be inclined to say "comfortable circumstances" – with regard to his property at the time – as his possessions are similar in value to Mr. Davenport's. He owned six slaves, two of whom were children, two horses and a gig, 90 bottles of Ma-

deira, etc. Also, be informed that Isaiah was one of three appraisers of McCall's estate inventory. The Savannah Death Records Index says he died of "decline." And, his newspaper obituary reads: "DIED - Yesterday afternoon, after a lingering illness, Major Hugh McCall, of the United States Army, in his 58th year." [June 11, 1824, [Georgian](#).]

The public records as documented by Susan Mays, when researching Isaiah Davenport's life, concludes that one year to the day preceding Hugh McCall's death, Isaiah Davenport mortgaged Lot 13 on Columbia Square (the DH!) and Lot 4 Trustees Garden to Hugh McCall. [June 10, 1823. Ward Books, Chat. Co. Ctse, Travis Abst. C. 1387-06]

The above got us wondering if Isaiah named his son after Hugh McCall as thanks for the mortgage assistance he received. The answer is no because Hugh McCall Davenport was born nine months prior on August 16, 1822. This also caused us to recall research that Anna Smith conducted and reported to docents in July 2007 about Davenport's financial situation in the early years of the 1820s. From her courthouse research she concluded the circumstances, including his inability to pay his taxes and the pew subscription at the Independent Presbyterian Church, was caused by a construction deal gone bad. She reported, "Isaiah built a big house on Broughton [St. and Barnard St.] for Mr. William R. Holland, a young druggist, with his expenses being \$6,585. Mr. Holland refused to pay. Davenport went to superior court in October 1823 to sue Holland. In the meantime, other claimants went to small claims court (the court of common pleas) and were able to obtain restitution but Davenport did not. Shortly thereafter, at age 27, Mr. Holland died leaving a wife and two children."

In thinking on this we felt compelled to try to discover a little more about Mr. Holland for the few sources we

have. We consulted the Savannah newspapers and found a sad story both for Mr. Holland as well as Mr. Davenport. And we are left with many questions. In March 1822 there is an ad for the partners Pouyant & Holland, "Druggists and Chemists, opposite the Exchange." The ad lists the "chemicals" and patent medicines available at their business. In January 20, 1824, an ad announces the dissolution of the partnership between Pouyant and Holland. Two months later there is a notice for a Sheriff's Sale for Holland's property to settle debts,

On the first Tuesday in April next, will be sold in front of the Court House . . . all the lot of land known in the plan the city of Savannah as lot number one 1, Heathcote Ward, containing sixty feet front and ninety feet deep, together with the improvements thereon, bounded north by Broughton street, south by a land, east by Barnard street, and west by lot number 2 two, levied on as the property of Wm. R. Holland, to satisfy sundry executions from the Court of Common Pleas and Oyer and Terminer, for the city of Savannah, Butler & Scranton and others, *vs.* Pouyat & Holland, and Joesph Kopman, and others *vs.* Wm. R. Holland, Gibbons *vs.* Pouyat & Holland. . . . [March 8, 1824, [Georgian](#)]

And, six monthS later Holland is dead. His obituary reads:

DIED,

On the 3d instant, after a short but distressing illness, Mr. William R. Holland, a native of this city, in the 27th year of his age, leaving a wife and two children, an aged father and mother, and other near relatives, to mourn his early loss. Frank and open in his manners, he gained many sincere and warm friends. Forgiving and of a generous disposition,

he conciliated even those, who might have been enemies; kind and affectionate, he won the hearts of all who were by kindred allied to him, and as he was beloved while living, so in death will he never be forgotten by them.

His remains were attended to the silent tomb, and the "farewell shot" fired by his brother soldiers, the "Savannah Volunteer Guards." [September 9, 1824, [Georgian](#)]

The Savannah Death Records Index says he died of "convulsions."

So we have the picture of a generous and unattached elder befriending and then assisting a young, hardworking craftsman and an even younger tradesman, native to the area, who was liked even through his difficulties. These three were thrown together because of constancies we cannot know. For our purposes though this confluence of people and events provides more color to the lives of the Davenports. We have a growing family with the provider having desperate financial circumstances due to a sore business arrangement which we will never fully understand. Davenport was left "holding the bag" for a tremendous amount of money which had consequences for his home and property. And, mortgage of the DH remained with Hugh McCall's estate following both Davenport and McCall's deaths as revealed in the announcement for the sale of Davenport's property listing Lot 13 and No. 4 Trustees Garden "levied on the property of the estate of Isaiah Davenport to satisfy an execution in favor of Thomas Purse and sold subject to mortgage in favor of Hugh McCall." [March 9, 1829, [Savannah Georgian](#)]