



Isaiah Davenport House Volunteer Newsletter

October 2011

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Hypochondria Cured. The wife of a respectable farmer having suffered much from this disease, fancied that she should die, and often assembled her friends around her bed to witness her closing scene. After repeating false alarms, they became convinced that she labored under a disease of the mind, and advised her husband to favour her belief about dying. Not long afterwards she was again attacked with her old disease, and posted off a boy to the corn field for her husband hastened to her bedside, where he found her apparently in the last stages of life. –She informed him that in one soul would wing its way to the mansions above, and before her death, she wished to know what he would do with the children when her care of them should be at an end. A thought struck him to try the power of vexation; he told her, therefore, with great apparent seriousness, that his thoughts had been very anxiously employed on the subject, but at length he came to a resolution, for the sake of the dear innocents, which he trusted would set her mind at rest on their account, in short, he had resolved, as soon after her death as decency would permit, to marry Molly Brown, (an old maid to whom she had a peculiar dislike.) This was too much – the good mother instantly jumped up, and swore Molly Brown should never be a step-mother for her children. A complete cure took place, and the image of Molly Brown never fails to check the least symptom of relapse. Gallia Gaz.

September 30, 1820. Savannah Republican.

Flooring Boards.

The subscriber has on hand a quantity of the first quality of flooring boards which he will contract to deliver in Savannah during November. – The stocks have been selected and every care has been taken in the sawing. For

further particulars, apply to A.S. Jones. Mill-Haven.

September 30, 1820. Savannah Republican.



DAVENPORT HOUSE CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2011

Saturday, October 1 at 7:30 p.m. and 8:45 p.m. – *A Mortality Prevails! Savannah's Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1820*

Tuesday, October 4 from 6 to 8 p.m.
- Savannah Arts Academy Junior Interpreter program

Thursday, October 6 at 9:30 to noon
– Docent Training Program
- **6:30 p.m.** – Madeira tour (motor coach)

Friday, October 7 at 6:30 p.m. – Madeira tour (motor coach)
- **7:30 and 8:45 p.m.** - *A Mortality Prevails! Savannah's Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1820*

Saturday, October 8 from 7:30 to 10 a.m. – Kennedy Pharmacy use
- **4 to 7 p.m.** – Garden Rental
- **7:30 and 8:45 p.m.** - *A Mortality Prevails! Savannah's Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1820*

Sunday, October 9 from 4 to 7 p.m. – Garden rental

Tuesday, October 11 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. – Road Scholars experience
- **Noon** – Davenport House Committee
- **6 to 8 p.m.** - Savannah Arts Academy Junior Interpreter program

Wednesday, October 12 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. - Road Scholars experience

Thursday, October 13 from 9:30 until 11:30 a.m. – Docent Training Program
- **6:30 p.m.** – Madeira Tour (motor coach)

Friday, October 14 at 6:30 p.m. – Madeira Tour (motor coach)
- **7:30 and 8:45 p.m.** - *A Mortality Prevails! Savannah's Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1820*

Saturday, October 15 at 7:30 and 8:45 p.m. - *A Mortality Prevails! Savannah's Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1820*

Monday, October 17 at 5:30 p.m. in the Kennedy Pharmacy – Savannah Chapter/Victorian Society in America board meeting

Tuesday, October 18 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. – Road Scholars experience
- **6 to 8 p.m.** - Savannah Arts Academy Junior Interpreter program

Wednesday, October 19 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. – Road Scholars experience

Thursday, October 20 at midday – Kennedy Pharmacy Rental
- **9:30 to 12 noon** - Docent Training Program

Friday, October 21 at 6:30 p.m. – Madeira Tour (motor coach)
- **7:30 and 8:45 p.m.** - *A Mortality Prevails! Savannah's Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1820*

Saturday, October 22 at 7:30 and 8:45 p.m. - *A Mortality Prevails! Savannah's Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1820*
- **Evening** – Historic Savannah Foundation gala (Warren Square)

Tuesday, October 25 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. – Road Scholars experience
- **6 to 8 p.m.** - Savannah Arts Academy Junior Interpreter program

Wednesday, October 26 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. – Road Scholars experience
- **afternoon** – Kennedy Pharmacy Rental

Thursday, October 27 from 9:30 until noon – Docent Training Program
- **All day** – Kennedy Pharmacy Rental

Friday, October 28 from 7:30 and 8:45 p.m. - *A Mortality Prevails! Savannah's Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1820*

Saturday, October 29 from 7:30 and 8:45 p.m. - *A Mortality Prevails! Savannah's Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1820*

AN ACTIVE MONTH: Our inaugural Road Scholar program continues in October as does our Madeira tour series. We also have two Pharmacy rentals and two weddings booked. Savannah Arts Academy JIs meet on Tuesday nights and Docent Training is on Thursday a.m.!!

SHOP:

- Thank you to the inventory takers who counted shop merchandise on Friday, September 30.
- Please know a selection of jewelry is on sale at a 40% discount and that there are new items available at the display counter.



DOCENTS:

- We are grateful to each of you.
- **Docent Training Program:** The fall Docent Training Program is scheduled for Thursday mornings from 9:30 until noon on October 6, October 13, October 20 and October 27. The October 6 and October 13 classes will be held in the Kennedy Pharmacy and the October 20 and October 27 classes will be held in the 2nd floor meeting room of the museum house. Please let your friends and acquaintances know that this opportunity is available. There is still room to join in.
- **Volunteer Trip to Bluffton:** The DH's fall volunteer trip is filling up. We will determine transportation (who will ride where) in early November. A number will travel in cars and one rented van will lead the way. See the September newsletter for the itinerary.

The price to travel by van is \$45 and the price per private car is \$25. The deadline to reserve a place and have your money into Jeff is Thursday, November 3.

MAINTENANCE TEAM:

After summer intern **Stephanie Blankshein** compiled photos and information sheets from a top to bottom house (and pharmacy) inspection, DH staff and the volunteer

maintenance/preservation team of **Tom Hoffman** and **Dirk Hardison** reviewed the outcome on September 16 and prioritized work which needs to be done over the next year. The museum's biggest problem continues to be with the inferior pine window sashes installed in the 1956 and later restorations. The team recommended a systematic replacement of all window sashes with a higher quality of wood. Discussion will take place on the best approach for tackling this. There were also a few places where bricks needed to be repointed and some minor AC maintenance.

The museum is grateful for the time and commitment Tom and Dirk put into their participation in DH preservation.



JUNIOR INTERPRET-

ERS:

- **In September:** Several JIs – **Deanna Clarke, Hannah Morales, Donald Smooth, Elijah Scott** and **Lindsey Scott** attended the monthly JI meeting which features a **Yellow Fever!** program rehearsal.

- **The next JI meeting:** JIs will not meet in October because of the **Yellow Fever!** program. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 2 when the topic will be 19th century apparel.

Savannah Arts Academy JIs: Forty high school sophomores attended the Junior Interpreter orientation, on September 27. After orientation, their names were submitted for a lottery and 15 were chosen at random to attend. The others are strongly encouraged to participate in the summer JI program. Savannah Arts Academy American history teacher Mr. **Rod MacKay** coordinated the recruitment and selection. He informs the DH of students who have been selected. Those young people will meet at the DH on Tuesday evenings from October 4 through November 22. They will staff the house as docents on Friday,

November 25 and Saturday, November 26. SAA Juniors **Lauren Booker, Annabelle F. Moe** and **Rachel Zettler** spoke to their peers about the program in Mr. MacKay's classes and -- from the looks of the interest -- were very effective. And, JIs **Lindsey Scott, Hannah Morales, Matthew Portman, Donald Smooth, Rachel Zettler** and **Annabelle F. Moe** attended orientation and spoke up for the program.

LEADERSHIP:

We waved our hankies with a tearful eye as **Debbie Critz, Ann Koontz** and **Cornelia Groves** rolled off the DH Committee in September. All will remain involved at the museum on projects where they feel they can be most effective. New on the Davenport House Committee in October are **Sylvia Coker, Archie Davis, Sarah Lamar** and **Charlotte Rehmer**. The museum is thrilled to have such a talented new group of leaders. And, please know that **Roger Smith** is entering his second year as President of the DH Committee. Wonderful leaders all!

DH FINANCES:

At the September **Historic Savannah Foundation** Board meeting, the DH's budget is to be approved for the upcoming year which begins October 1. This will end a process that began in June (and begin another). Staff looks at all aspects of income and expenses and then forecasts what the upcoming year will be like. The process also includes plans for capital expenditures – for larger maintenance activities. This forecasting is very much like looking into a crystal ball – an *informed* crystal ball but a crystal ball nonetheless.

Our income comes from **Special Events** which this past year included the successful Oyster Roast as well as all of our museum programming from Yellow Fever to spring walking tours,



Friends of the Davenport House Annual Giving Campaign, Garden Rentals, Pharmacy Rentals, Pharmacy Apartment Rentals, Gift Shop Sales, Donations (donation box), and **Unbudgeted Income**. Our biggest income lines come from admissions which are divided into three categories – **Walk-Ins, Fee Tours** (these are the tour companies which Jeff bills) and the **Triple Pass Program** which we share with **Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace** and **Andrew Low House**. Most of these budget lines met or exceeded budget projections this past year. Our expenses include **Salaries/Hourly Wages, Payroll Tax, Travel, Repairs and Maintenance** (DH and KP), **Advertising, Utilities** for both the DH and KP, **Telephone, Housekeeping Supplies, Postage, Printing, Garden Maintenance, Accounting Fees, Property Taxes** (primarily the KP), **Bank Fee, Hospitality, Security** (DH and KP), **Management Fees, Computer Repairs and Maintenance, Program Expenses, Insurance, Office Supplies**, among others. Staff manages these activities. **Jeff** is in charge of billings while **Paula** pays our bills. Both coordinate income and expense documentation through a computer program.

In my younger, I used to “wish that museums would be more like libraries,” meaning be free to the public. However, I have learned that nothing is totally free (though volunteer hours come very close) and someone or something pays for every aspect of life (including libraries). Everyone in our community in some way influences fiscal processes of the museum. What makes what we do efficient is that the DH’s activities are transparent. The DH usually (unless something extraordinary happens) lives within its means through the income and expenses noted above and operates in the black. Of course, this means

we have to be a lean (and not so mean) endeavor.

Being lean and mean as well as being mindful of what crystal ball forecasting really is, Jeff and I always ask about now (mid-September) “Do you think the tourists will find their way back to Savannah?” We say that



pretty much about everything we do - “Will patrons find their way to Savannah to see Yellow Fever?” “Do you think visitors will find the way back to Savannah for our Holiday Evening tours?” “Will brides find their way to the DH for a wedding?” *Will the swallows come back to Capistrano?* Being largely dependent on earned income these anxious concerns have a modicum of merit. Our planning does include ways to encourage visitors, brides, program patrons back to the site (marketing, public relations and advertising). Making the DH work takes planning, upkeep and luck (even though Oprah does not believe in it) to see it through. And, being in Savannah makes an historic house lucky. In fact, yesterday our shop clerk said, “The busy season must have started two weeks early.” Maybe the swallows are returning to Capistrano!
JC

MEMBERSHIP:

As we close out the 2011 fiscal year, the Davenport House has 139 **Friends of the Davenport House**.

WORTH MENTIONING:

- **How Mothers Think:** Mrs. Credle sent Jamie a slick magazine from Tryon Palace in New Bern, NC with the cover story reading “**A Perfect Reign of Terror . . .**” **The Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1864**. Mrs. Credle seems to think that the DH had something to do with giving Tryon Palace the idea. Don’t you love how mothers think.

AN INTERESTING STORY IN THE MAGAZINE ON CHILDHOOD MORTALITY WHICH RELATED TO THE

DH’S PERIOD OF INTERPRETATION IS QUOTED BELOW:

A grim fact of mid-19th century life [as well as early 19th century life] is that many children did not live to adulthood. It is estimated that between one-fifth and one-third of all children in antebellum America died before reaching their 10th birthday. If you were a young slave, the odds were even worse. Estimates based on plantation records and contemporary documents indicate that the infants and young children of slaves were twice as likely to die as those of the free population.

The cards were stacked against children, free or enslaved. . . . The causes of many illness were poorly understood and medical treatment was frequently ineffective, if not downright dangerous. Childbirth remained a dicey proposition for both women and their infants. Too often, poor nutrition, inadequate sanitation and tainted drinking water helped matters along. Summers brought the threat of the dreaded yellow fever; other diseases such as measles, scarlet fever, smallpox, cholera, dysentery, tuberculosis, whooping cough and typhoid fever, spread quickly and with lethal results.



Disease played no favorites. For all levels of society, death was a familiar and unwelcome guest.

The Palace: The Magazine of Tryon Palace. Summer 2011.

- **Adventures of Ghost**

Kitty: If you like the stuffed kitty in the shop and you like to see the mischief she gets into in the DH – follow **The Adven-**



tures of **Ghost Kitty** on Wednesdays through the Davenport House's Facebook "Fan" page.

- Madeira Tour (motor coach)

Volunteers: Thanks to the volunteers and staff who are making the Thursday and Friday Madeira tours happen **Marty Barnes, Frances Colón, Karen Halloran, Katherine Owens, Maria Sanchez, Abbey Schreiber, Roger Smith, Brooke Wilford, Sherene Lamarche, Helen Linskey, Dottie Kraft, Jamie Credle and Raleigh Marcell.** They have made a substantial after-hours commitment to the museum. They will be informed of the volunteer schedule by email.

HISTORIC SAVANNAH FOUNDATION COMMUNICATION WITH DH:

Terri O'Neil and Sherene Lamarche of HSF's Development Department met with DH staff and volunteers in September to build a more direct line of communication to the messengers of our community – the people who are on the front line with the public. Their hope is that DH folks will be the voice of HSF in the community. In order to do this they need to understand what HSF is and what it does. They encouraged DH folks to view the HSF website – **myhsf.org** -- to learn about the organizations efforts to save and revitalize Savannah. Terri and Sherene explained HSF's premiere program, the **Revolving Loan Fund**, noting it is the heart and soul of what the Foundation does. The organization purchases threatened historic properties, stabilizes them and markets them for resale. Currently HSF has five properties in its inventory for sale. Terri noted that their role as the Development Department is to create opportunities to serve HSF's mission. They hope that DH front-line people will be comfortable talking to the public about HSF and to advocate for membership in the organization. As an incentive they will stock the kitchen with goodies every time 10 HSF memberships are sold

by DH staff or volunteers. After 25 memberships are sold the museum will have a pizza party. The categories of membership and levels are noted in HSF membership brochures available at the museum. Questions may be directed to Terri at terri@myhsf.org or Sherene at slamarche@myhsf.org



DH SPOTLIGHT

Jamal Touré

How did you come to be associated with the

Davenport House?

Melissa Jest who worked at HSF back in 2003 emailed me that the DH planned to put on a living history program - something I has interested in doing. I contacted Jamie and Raleigh. I then sat down with Raleigh in the garden and discussed the idea of "Yellow Fever." It was such a wonderful idea to open doors to different aspects of history such as the idea free people of color. In doing the show it allows me to share with folks and give them one of those "Ah Ha" moments. Where they say "Really?!" "I didn't know that."

What do you do outside of the DH?

I operate a tour company, a history company, a museum – Geechee Kunda in Riceboro, and do a little mental health counseling. My business is called DayCleanJourneys.

What is your favorite thing about the Davenport House?

The house and the history of the people that lived there. I also love to share the history of Savannah's restoration. I can say it began right here. The totality of it all – I look at the DH as being part of the family – my family.

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

Being confronted by a highly medicated and inebriated woman during one of our Yellow Fever performances (She later wrote an apology letter saying the mixture of the cocktail she had before the performance

and the medication she was taking illicit uncalled for behavior of which she had no memory of but which her companions told her she should regret.) And, the experience of people who have seen the performance at the DH recognizing me. They'll say "Hey Jamal!" and we will talk about the performance.

What do you love most about the DH?

The staff and the docents.

How long have you been in Savannah?

All my life in Savannah and Hilton Head – both sides of the water.

Where else have you lived?

Macon (college at Mercer) and the DC Metro Area.

What is your favorite season in Savannah and why?

Around now – September - when you get a sense the seasons will change. You know we really don't have four seasons here it usually goes from chilly to hot but around now you begin to feel a difference.

What is your favorite thing to do?

I like the water ways. The events and festivals. There is always something to learn about other cultures here. As I child I was intrigued by Savannah's Geechee Culture, then I became interested in Jewish culture and through the Georgia Historical Society I learned about Native America culture. Of course then I found out about Irish culture and Greek culture. The Asian culture. In Savannah you can learn about all of these without having to travel.

We've got Scottish culture, German culture, Hispanic culture – You can see

them all here. And all of these provide a context for

learning so many things.



***A MORTALITY PREVAILS!* Savannah's Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1820**

Friday and Saturday nights in October 2011

(October 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29)

Two performances: 7:30 p.m. and 8:45 p.m.

\$15 in advance for adults, \$10 in advance children (ages 8-17) and \$17 for adults and \$15 for children at the time of the performance

Reservations recommended. Limited attendance.

60 minutes

A look at the DH guest register: During the month of September (2011), the Davenport House saw visitors from 41 states including Puerto Rico. Florida, Georgia and South Carolina topped the list but Alabama, California, Michigan, North Carolina, and Texas made strong showings as well. Hometowns included McCalls, AL, Daleville, AZ, Arkadelphia, AR, Merrillville, IN, Swartz Creek, MI, Alpena, MI, Vineland, NJ, Albion, NY, Delphos, OH, Piqua, OH, Owasso, OK, Ninety Six, SC, Boiling Springs, SC and Kilmarnock, VA. Our international visitors came from Australia, Austria, Canada, England, Germany, India, The Netherlands, Peru, Sweden and Switzerland.



Where They Heard

About Us (in descending order of frequency) Tour Guides; Trolley Tours (Old Town Trolley, Oglethorpe, Old Savannah); Guide books (AAA, Fodor's, Frommers, 1000 Things to Do ...); Brochures; Concierge (Hyatt, Presidents Quarters); Walk By (Group On); Internet; Bus Tours; Friends: Visitors Center; Eugenia Price; Map; Relative; Repeat Visit; Carriage Tour.

What They Had To Say

"Great tour guide."
"Wonderful & beautiful. Informative tour."
"Excellent." "Awesome."
"Fantastic." "Fabulous."
"Brilliant." "Enjoyed seeing how a family lived."
"Loved it." "Lovely." "A delight! Thank you."
"Fantastic tour - very knowledgeable." "Great visit." "Save all the old homes!" "Nice job." "Save all the old homes!" "Nice job." "Great. Betty was wonderful." "Loved the house. Nice tour."
"Thoroughly enjoyed the tour." "Very informative."
"Like coming home."
"Great story of the family during the tour." "Thanks. Very good guiding." "Very entertaining." "Glad we did this!" "Docent was very good." "Thankful for the 4 ladies." "Excellent guide." "Great - always wanted to see period home." "It was real neat to hear about how it was built." "Thankful for preservation efforts."
"Marty was great." "A wonderful step back in history." "Great - especially the staircase."

A Mortality Prevails: Savannah's Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1820

It is very exciting for the Davenport House to present original theater every year as it does with its ***Yellow Fever!*** shows. It gives our volunteers and friends a chance to perform. It provides all with an opportunity to see the house – our theater set - by candlelight. And, most profoundly it provides the museum a chance to expand the usual story and to expound on ideas which were historically timely and ironically contemporary. For example, this year's show begins with Mayor Charlton explaining that the General Assembly, "passed an act to prevent the introduction of passengers into the port of Savannah" during the summer months. In this case it was to prevent the spread of disease which they felt "strangers" were most susceptible. And we continue to regulate the movement of passengers and strangers in the city to this day for a variety of reasons.

Most of ***A Mortality Prevails*** is new this year. We have transformed the Kennedy Pharmacy into a stage complete with a giant American flag to simulate the Exchange Long room – the location for public gatherings and assemblies at the time. It is from this vantage point that the editors of two of Savannah's competing newspapers debate the severity, urgency and very existence of the fever. One of the points of discussion is that there was yellow fever ***every*** "sickly season." The debate between the two concerns "*Is it an epidemic?*", "*Do the authorities know more than they are telling the public?*" and "*How does a municipal government handle an emergency?*" A back-story to the discussion is that the two newspapers were rooted in different political philosophies. The Savannah Republican run by Mr. Fell advocated the Democratic Republicans (Jeffersonian) point of view and the Columbian Museum was of the opposing Federalist view.

This is a simplistic synopsis of some political views in 1820.

Democratic-Republican (Republican or Jeffersonian). 1790 – 1825. The party of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. Favored states rights and the primacy of the 'yeoman farmer.' Supporters often planters as opposed to bankers, industrialists, merchants and investors

Federalists. The party of Alexander Hamilton and John Adams. 1790 – 1820. Committed to a fiscally sound, nationalistic government. Favored a national bank, tariffs and good relations with Britain.

In ***A Mortality Prevail!***, Jeff Freeman performs as Mr. Bartlet, one of the publishers of the Columbian Museum which ran from 1817 – 1821 (and you can be



viewed on microfilm at the Georgia Historical Society). In our research we found out very little about Bartlet other than his last name and his affiliation with the newspaper. His partner was Michael J. Kappel, who ran the paper alone from 1817-1818 and with Bartlet from 1818- 1818-1820 as Kappel and Barlet. The Columbia Museum and Savannah Daily Gazette resulted from the merger of the Columbian Museum and Savannah Commercial Advertiser and Savannah Gazette. It was a daily paper and published triweekly during the summer months.

Mr. Frederick Fell published the Savannah Republican, also known as the Savannah Daily Republican, from 1817 to 1839. It was a tri-weekly until 1821 when it became a daily (except Sundays). **Iain Woodside** performs as Mr. Fell.

Savannah's Mayor, T.U.P. Charlton, and performed by **John Leonti**, was a Jeffersonian. One of the points to be appreciated through Charlton is the sacrifice political figures endure in public.

The mayor notes, "A great mortality also prevails among the blacks, but as they are not noticed in the official records, we have not data on which to found and estimate of their numbers." The outstanding performer **Jamal Touré**, portraying a freeman living in Yamacraw, fills in the story's gaps for the population not covered in the official records.

"I have not doubt that some of you are strongly included to superstition. You are naturally credulous, and pass so much of your time searching out supernatural tales, that your minds have probably become infected by them." Miss Hestia Robinson.

1820 was a year of turmoil and the character Mrs. Suzannah Humphries, performed by **Jan Vach**, is more preoccupied with her personal losses from the January fire than the threat of fever. She is skeptical of medical practices which include puking, purging and bleeding.

In the summer of 1820, Savannah was filled with strangers and foreigners who came to the town to rebuild after the fire. **Tiffany Miller** portrays one of this number.

With such pain, suffering and loss, Savannahians must have done a good deal of soul searching for the meaning of it all. **Lauren Purcell** portrays Hestia Robinson, a young woman deeply affected by the death and displacement of the fever. Her words about the supernatural and the ultimate nature of the soul are from the contemporary writing of Washington Irving in Bracebridge Hall. Interestingly, Irving had first-hand experience with yellow fever when as a boy his family moved from Manhattan searching a more healthy climate upriver in Tarrytown.

Adding to the theatricality of the performance is **Shannon Wichers** who sings the unofficial national anthem of the time "Hail Columbia" as well as a mournful selection. **Jody Christie** and **Jamie Credle** perform as Mrs. Theodosia Johnson, the wife of a doctor who practices the traditional medicine of the day.

With all this "good fun" and storytelling, we hope as we always hope this time of year that the museum's theatrical efforts find an audience! Please let your tour visitors know this after-hours entertainment is available and that it makes a terrific

"I dislike – to hear doctors when they lose a patient, to cry out yellow fever, because it strikes a panic among the illiterate—but the enlightened know it is only to cover their want to skill."
Mrs. Susannah Humphries.

supplement to a house tour as it does not cover the same material.

Thomas Usher Pulaski Charlton. 1779-1835. Born in Camden, South Carolina. His father was a surgeon and veteran of the American Revolution. He moved with his widowed mother to Savannah in 1791. 1800 admitted to the bar. At age 21 he became a member of the Georgia Legislature. At 25, he was chosen as the Attorney General of Georgia. In 1808 he was appointed Judge of the Eastern Circuit. September 6, 1811 to April 24, 1815 and September 14, 1818 to July 12, 1819 (a period that Isaiah Davenport was also Alderman) he served as Alderman to the City of Savannah. He served as mayor September 11, 1815 to September 8, 1817 and July 12, 1819 to February 28, 1821. He served as the chairman of the Committee of Public Safety during the War of 1812. In 1825 he served on a committee to compile the statues of Georgia. He died at the age of 56. First wife, Emily Walter. They had four children but only two reached maturity Robert Milledge and Thomas Jackson. His second wife was Ellen Glasco. "Charlton was considered to have dignified conduct, impartially and generosity." He is buried in Laurel Grove Cemetery.