



Isaiah Davenport House Volunteer Newsletter

May 2013

www.davenportmuseum.org
Become a Facebook fan at "Davenport House Museum"

912/236-8097



NOTICE

The subscriber informs his friend and the public that he intends retiring from Savannah about the last of the present month, and of closing all his business in this place previous to that time. He has on hand a general and very extensive assortment of the best and most fashionable

SUMMER CLOTHING

Which he offers at wholesale and retail at first cost. The above stock of Goods have been laid in low, and may be an object to speculations.

P. Drege.

Peter Drege informs such of his customers who were in the habit of supplying themselves with **Negro Clothing** by the quantity, that he will be glad to continue furnishing them from his New York Clothing Ware House at Charleston.

Any order he may be favored with, will be promptly executed, the quality of the Goods will be the best, will cost less, and will be shipped to Savannah at his own risk.

The Editor of the Georgia Patriot, Milledgeville, is requested to insert the above 15 times and forward his account to P. Drege.

Savannah Republican, May 14, 1824.

Syrup of Palmetto

Doctor Berthelot respectfully informs the public and his friends, that he is supplied in his store with a large quantity of that efficacious Medicine called the Syrup of Palmetto, which is celebrated for its extraordinary virtues in destroying WORMS, which so generally afflicted children in this country. It has been generally acknowledged all over the West Indies and the United States. This Syrup being of an agreeable flavor, children will take it easily without that disgust which ordinarily attends the use of other Medicines employed for the same purpose.

Those persons who will use this Syrup in the above case may be certain of a radical cure. Directions to us it will be given by the subscriber.

J. B. Berthelot

May 31 Savannah Republican, June 17, 1824.



DAVENPORT HOUSE CALENDAR

MAY 2013

- Wednesday, May 1 from 9 until 10 a.m.** – Planting garden (Italian pots and parterre)
- 2 p.m.** - Pres. Fest/DH meeting
- 5 p.m.** – rehearsal, Davenport Dancers
- Thursday, May 2 at 2:30 to 4:10 p.m.** Road Scholars
- 4:30 p.m.** – *Tea in the Garden*
- PRESERVATION FESTIVAL: LAUNCH PARTY (SHIPS OF THE SEA) FROM 6 – 9 P.M.**
- Friday, May 3 at 4:30 p.m.** – *Tea in the Garden*
- 6:15 p.m.** – Madeira program/motor coach
- Saturday, May 4 at 8 a.m.** – Early Bird's Tour/*Isaiah Davenport's Savannah*
- 2 to 3:45 p.m.** – Special/US/ICOMOS DH Top to Bottom/Inside Out Tour
- 4 until 7 p.m.** – Garden Rental (ceremony only)
- Monday, May 6 at noon in the Kennedy Pharmacy** – 2013 Oyster Roast Committee Evaluation and Luncheon
- Wednesday, May 8 at 5 p.m.** – rehearsal, Davenport Dancers
- Thursday, May 9 at 2:30 to 4:15 p.m.** – Road Scholars at the DH
- 4:30 p.m.** – *Tea in the Garden*
- 6:15 p.m.** – Madeira program/motor coach
- PRESERVATION FESTIVAL: HSF AWARDS LUNCHEON**
- Friday, May 10 at 4:30 p.m.** – Tea in the Garden
- 6:15 p.m.** – Madeira program/motor coach
- Saturday, May 11 at 8 a.m.** - Early Bird's Tour/*Isaiah Davenport's Savannah*
- 4 to 7 p.m.** – Garden Rental (ceremony only)
- Monday, May 13 at 9:30 to noon** – 3rd Grade visit, East Broad Street Elementary (Mrs. Jones and Mrs. West)
- 6:30 p.m.** – Summer JI Program Orientation

- Tuesday, May 14 from 5 until 9 p.m.** in the garden and **KP** – Downtown Neighborhood Association's Annual Spring Picnic
 - Wednesday, May 15 at 5 p.m.** – rehearsal, Davenport Dancers
 - Thursday, May 16 at 2:30 to 4:15 p.m.** – Road Scholars at the DH
 - 4:30 p.m.** – *Tea in the Garden*
 - 6:15 p.m.** – Madeira program/motor coach
 - Friday, May 17 at 4:30 p.m.** – *Tea in the Garden*
 - 6:15 p.m.** – Madeira program/motor coach
 - PRESERVATION FESTIVAL: PRESERVATION WINE TOUR**
 - Saturday, May 18 at 8 a.m.** - Early Bird's /*Isaiah Davenport's Savannah*
 - 4 to 7:30 p.m.** - Garden rental (ceremony only)
 - Tuesday, May 21 at 1 p.m.** - Davenport House Committee
 - PRESERVATION FESTIVAL PROGRAM – LECTURE BY ANDREE IFFRIG, "URBAN NARRATIVES"**
 - Wednesday, May 22 at 5 p.m.**— rehearsal, Davenport Dancers
 - Thursday, May 23 at 6 to 9 p.m.** – *PARTY FOR THE PEARL OF PRESERVATION*
 - Friday, May 24 at 5 p.m.** – *Tea in the Garden*
 - Saturday, May 25 at 7:30 a.m.** - Early Bird's /*Isaiah Davenport's Savannah*
 - 4 to 7 p.m.** – Garden Rental (ceremony only)
 - Sunday, May 26 from 4 to 7 p.m.** – Garden Rental (ceremony only)
 - Wednesday, May 29 at 12:10** – Special/Winterthur students
 - Thursday, May 30 at 8:30 a.m.** – DH Endowment Directors quarterly meeting
 - 5 p.m.** – *Tea in the Garden*
 - Friday, May 31 at 5 p.m.** - *Tea in the Garden*
- BUSY SEASON CONTINUES!**
Wednesday, May 1 at 2:30 – 20 p
Tuesday, May 7 at 2 p.m. – 40 p

SHOP NEWS:

- **New book:** Walking Tours of Old Savannah by Polly Powers Stramm and Janice Shay, \$12.95
- **Back in stock:** Quartet of teas packages in boxes showing Savannah landmarks – peachy tea in the Mansion on Forsyth Park, English breakfast in the Owens-Thomas House, St. Patrick Irish in the Kehoe House and raspberry in the King Tisdell Cottage, \$12.95; pillboxes with new illustrations prices ranging from \$8.95 to \$35

FOR DOCENTS:

- Congratulations **Chris Hutcheson** who completed his evaluation tour and is now a full-fledged docent.

- PLEASE REMEMBER TO **KEEP IT POSITIVE:** One of the things I learned from the late Dick Platt in the midst of what I thought was a crisis – and something that I needed to hear -- was, “It’s not about you, you know.” That was the truth and a hard lesson. What we do at the DH needs to be focused on the museum and the service we provide. So what I need to say to you is to remember Dick’s wisdom. A recent visitor comment reads, “Our guide was tired.” Now, how would they know that? [Well, you might have looked tired! And we *won’t go there.*] Did they hear, “Boy, this is my third tour in a row and my tongue is hanging out,” or something similar? Please, do like Johnny Mercer recommended, “**Accentuate the Positive.**” You might not even know you are being negative. Remember our guests are on vacation. Their visit here should be easy, pleasant, worry-free and organized. By worry-free, we do not want them to worry about YOU! Museum staff cares about you and wants to hear all about you, but for our guests, let’s keep it focused.



PLEASE DON’T SAY:

“**Terrible weather we are having.**”

- “**I wish you had a better day.**”
- “**It was so beautiful here last week.**”
- “**Gosh, isn’t the pollen horrendous!**”
- “**You just missed a tour. Now you will have to wait.**”
- “**Boy, my knees can feel the tours I’ve given.**”

- “**This is such a large group!**”
- “**We don’t normally do tours this way.**”
- “**I wish you had more time.**”
- “**They asked me to speed it up.**”
- “**This is the fourth tour I have given today and I don’t know whether I am coming or going.**”
- “**My tennis injury is acting up.**”
- “**What a mess.**” Etc. ☺

NEW COLLECTIONS ITEMS:

- **Julie and Keith Dimond**, our gracious hosts at the 2013 Oyster Roast, recently donated two objects to the museum. Please note the objects the next time you are in the DH. These items are more appropriate to the museum’s period of interpretation than the items they replace.



- In the Morning Room, **cradle/hooded**, early 19th century.



- In the Boy’s Room, **rocking chair**, early 19th century. Signed by maker Isaac William Morell, Savannah. Morell was a New Englander who came to the port city around 1825 and worked as a commis-

sions agent or broker. He built furniture as a side occupation. [Theus, Savannah Furniture]



SPRING GARDEN PLANTING:

On May 1st the Italian pots and the parterre will be planted for summer and fall. Remember the museum plants twice a year in May and in November. So what will go in on May 1st will need to last until Halloween! As usual there will be a framed listing of these plants on the guest book table in the “lobby.” If guests ask about the plants, you may refer to the list. And if you know plants or can remember plant names, the plants are: Angelonias (white), Red Rufles Coleus, Persian Shield Strobilanthes, Pretoria Canna, Mona Lavender Plectranthus, Marugerite Sweet Potato, White New Look Pentas, Blue Scevola,

White Zinnia Profusion and Black Face Elephant Ear.

DONATIONS IN APRIL

- Ashby Angell
- John and Cort Atkinson
- Karin Counts
- Martin Karp
- Frieda Hutchinson
- Sue Kinnaird
- Mills L. Morrison, Jr.
- Gage and Judy Ochsner
- Patricia Shapiro
- Brooke and Andrew Wilford
- Ardis Woods
- Lois Wooten

IN REMEMBRANCES:

Of Richard “Dick” Platt

- Cornelia Groves
- Jamie Credle and Raleigh Marcell
- Anna Wasden

Of Emily Pickels

- Jullian Balliet

TEA IN THE GARDEN: IN MAY:

The DH’s living history performers will do it alfresco in May. During the program on tea customs of the early 19th century, tea will be served in the courtyard garden (weather permitting). Please let your visitors know this program is available to them. Our performers are: **Jeff Freeman, Jamie Credle, Brooke Wilford, Lauren Purcell, Jan Vach, Kate Bosen and Catie Morris.**

- **Bakers:** See who is baking Sally Lunn bread and ginger bread for the program: Thursday, May 2nd – Use what we have Friday, May 3 – **De Gassman** Thursday, May 9 – **Judy Howell** Friday, May 10 – **Helen Linskey;** Thursday, May 16 – **RoseAnn Hooper** Friday, May 17 – **Karen Matteo** Friday, May 24 – **Arla DaCamara** Thursday, May 30 – **De Gassman** Friday, May 31 – **Helen Linksey**
- THANK YOU TO ALL!!!!**

MAY MADERIA/MOTORCOACH SCHEDULE:

- **Friday, May 3** (6:15) – Pam Eaton, Don Starr, Roger Smtih—docents; Helen Linksey/Dottie Kraft—set up
- **Thursday, May 9** (6:15) – Pam Eaton, Marty Barnes, Don Starr—docents; Helen Linskey/Dottie Kraft—set up
- **Friday, May 10** (6:15) – Katherine Owens, John Sorel, **one more**—docents; Helen Linskey/Dottie Kraft—set up
- **Thursday, May 16** (6:15) – Pam Eaton, Fran Moliettere, Abby Schreiber—docents; Helen Linskey/Dottie Kraft—set up

- **Friday, May 17 (6:15)** – Katherine Owens, Abby Schreiber, Roger Smith—docents; Helen Linksey/ Dottie Kraft—set up

WORTH MENTIONING:

- **LEADERSHIP CHANGE:** **Reed Dulaney III** is now the chairman of the Davenport House Endowment Directors. He will lead investment advisors at the May 30 meeting.

- **KP ROOF:** The Kennedy Pharmacy received a new roof in late April. It is made of a material called TPO which has a 20 year warranty from the manufacturer. The \$25,000 cost was covered through investments from donations and gifts which are managed by the DH Endowment Directors.

- **MILESTONES: EMILY BARNAS**, who took DH Docent Training in February, is now a full-time employee at the Ships of the Sea Museum. Volunteer **TRISTEN PERSONS** will marry her sweetheart on May 4 in Alabama.

- **DICK PLATT:** The museum community mourns the loss of Richard “Dick” Platt who was an Endowment Director for two terms serving as its chairman 2004-2006. He was a long-time patron and museum champion.

- **Community Party:** Please mark your calendar for Thursday, June 6 from 6 to 8 p.m. for the Annual DH Garden Party for Volunteers and Friends to celebrate the end of the busy season. The DH Community Service Scholarship recipients will be formally announced at that time and the **Davenport Dancers** will give their first performance. DH volunteers are asked to bring an appetizer or a dessert to complete the table. More information will be sent out May 24. Invitations will be in the mail that time as well!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

DANCE MISTRESS -

ELIZABETH ALBE

DH: How did you become involved with the DH?

Elizabeth: The first time I came to Savannah, I toured all of the historical houses. When I came through the Davenport House, I picked up on the energy and the airiness of it. I got a very good feeling from the house. When I returned home, I remembered feeling the energy of the house. While driving to work early one morning I thought, Wouldn't it be great to have Regency



dance program at the DH!” I thought the it would be the perfect venue. So I pulled off freeway into mall parking lot and called! I asked to speak to the director and was connected with Jamie. I told her what I wanted to do. I was afraid that she was going to take me for a crazy lady but as we talked we figured it out. And that's how it started.

DH: Where were you born?

Elizabeth: I was born in Trenton, NJ – though later we moved to California area

DH: What's your dance training?

Elizabeth: My mother started me when I was around 5 or 6, which is much too early, especially for ballet which takes a lot of discipline. When I was a teenager I started at the Ballet Smaltzoff in Hollywood, CA. The school was run by an old gentlemen named Erglis who had danced with Nijinsky. He taught ballet the way the old Russian masters had done. His school was a cultural hub for dance in Hollywood. He had worked with Gene Kelly, Fred Astaire. Drew Barrymore also studied there for a while. I stayed there around 10 years. About 5 years ago, his old studio was torn down to make room for a parking lot.

DH: What else were you doing while you were studying dance?

Elizabeth: I was going to school like everyone else. I loved dancing but I never got into full time like my brother did. He danced professionally for many years and was very good at it. I went on to college and majored in Art History at first but then decided to earn a degree in English. After that I got my masters in Medieval and Renaissance studies. I've always stuck with dancing but I had to earn a living. I've had a 9 to 5 job for years.

DH: What do you do then?

Elizabeth: Right now I teach English at Santa Ana Community College in Santa Ana, CA. I also teach English as a Second Language. In fact, I co-host a radio program that teaches English to the Vietnamese community. I've helped to develop instructional tapes and books for that as well.

DH: What are some of your other skills?

Elizabeth: Well, I speak several languages – French, Spanish, Russian, Polish. I play lute and recorder – Renaissance instruments. I've worked as an

historical consultant for independent films. Of course, you know that I'm the artistic director for the San Diego Maritime Museum where we perform on the HMS Surprise which is a replica of an 18th century British frigate. Our troupe is often hired out to perform at different events away from the museum as well. We even did some work for the History Channel. I still take dance classes with the Southland Ballet. Dancing keeps me in shape which is very important to me. I want to be dancing when I turn 100.



A look at the DH Guest Register: During the month of April (2013), the DH saw visitors 45 states, 1 U.S. territory and 10 countries. Our international guests came from Austria, Canada, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Ireland, South Africa, and Wales. Interesting US hometowns include Satellite Beach, FL, Niceville, FL, Wawaka, IN, Floyds Knobs, IN, Derby, KS, Water Valley, KY, Owls Head, ME, Lugoff, SC, Hiram, UT, Fancy Gap, VA & Sheboygan Falls, WI.

How They Heard About Us: Tour guides (Architectural Tours of Savannah, Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace); trolley tours (Old Town Trolley, Old Savannah Tours, Oglethorpe Tours); Internet (AASU Road Scholars, Group On, Trip Advisor, Lonely Planet, All in One Destinations); guide books (AAA, Fodor's, Frommer's); brochures; concierges (Hilton DeSoto, Kehoe House, Hyatt, Gastonian, Park Avenue Manor, Marriott); friend (Taxi driver); Visitors Center; relatives; walked by; repeat visit; maps; architecture school – Iowa State University; Eugenia Price; *Midnight in the Garden*....

What They Had To Say: "Thanks for your conservation efforts." "Best guide of the day. Mr. Connelly." "Super guide. Pete was great." "Beautiful rooms!" "Excellent. Lover our docent!" "Excellent presentation." "Loved it. Better than Charleston." "Lauren did a wonderful job on the tour. So sweet!" "My father was Clayton D. Davenport of Greenfield, MA. Also a builder!" "Miss Betty was the best tour guide ever. Very knowledgeable & affable." "A wonderful piece of history." "Good to see the house preserved and well loved." "Fabulous tour guide. We loved Annie." "Marty is an excellent guide." "Love the staircase. Guide was great." "Lynn was a great tour guide."

The Pearl of Pres. Has a PARTY!

You might be wondering what is going with this **Pearl . . . Party**. As the DH and HSF evolve, so do the programs and events they collaborate on. For a decade HSF/DH presented the Savannah Garden Expo. As that event waned, a new focus emerged last year which spanned National Historic Preservation Month – May - with a series of events under one umbrella called **Preservation Fest**. This year there will be five events to consider, celebrate, emphasize and support historic preservation. They are a “**Launch Party**” at Ships of the Sea Museum on May 2, **Preservation Awards Luncheon** on May 9, **Preservation Wine Tour** on May 17, **Preservation Lecture** with Andree Iffrig on May 21 and the **Pearl of Preservation Party** on May 23 at the DH concluding the series.

For the DH’s component, a volunteer committee of **Brooke Wilford, Jan Vach, Charlotte Rehmert, Diane Kaufman** and **Diane Reitman** came together with enthusiasm to create a fab and *pearl-ious* party to end all parties. The idea came from a desire to remember and celebrate the steely determination and understated empowerment of **Our Seven Ladies** in the age of the Chanel suit! Our seven lived in a very stylish time though I suspect that beyond being tastefully-suited, being trendy was the last thing on their minds. They were out to save the city in A-line dresses, armed with a strand of pearls and an air of determination. So while we spin “the mid century” cigarette smoking, cocktail shaking time as seen in TV’s “Mad Men” for our **Pearl** celebration, we know that **Our Seven Ladies** would smile at the stylish association, knowing it is all for the cause they championed.

MacKay Wilford, a student at Parsons School of Design in New York – as well as Brooke and Andrew’s daughter, created the invitation design showing seven well-coifed ladies in pearls. The headline reads “Party for the Pearl of Preservation.” And, certainly you know the mid-century decay of Savannah’s tenement era brought forth a lustrous “pearl,” the DH, which has shown as a beacon of preservation since the dawn of the organized movement. So let’s celebrate our pearl and what it has brought about!

It is appropriate now to look back even as we look forward by reviewing what the Founders of Historic Savannah Foundation really believed and what the preservation movement meant to the city. The article to the right was written by Lucy Barrow McIntire, one of **Our Seven Ladies**, and appeared in the *Magazine* section of the *Savannah Morning News* on Sunday, January 8, 1961. The impetus for it was a traveling photography exhibit of threatened buildings at the **Telfair Museum**.



There’s a sense of urgency in the air these days as more and more people catch . . .

“Historic Savannah Fever”

By Lucy Barrow McIntire

Of all the things Telfair Art Academy has done for this city (and they are legion), none has been more opportune, timely or constructive than an exhibition called “Architecture Worth Saving” which will open at Telfair this week. [Ran – January 1 – 31, 1961]

The exhibition features big murals of significant buildings throughout the United States which have been reclaimed, are presently endangered, or through lack of foresight, have been destroyed.

Supplementing the exhibition will be photo murals of old Savannah buildings in similar situations.

Circulated by the Museum of Modern Art, in collaboration with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Architectural Forum, the subject ranges in date and style from Southern plantation houses of the Classic Revival to office structures by pioneer architects.

Appearance of the exhibit at Telfair is like manna to the 600 members of Historic Savannah Inc., for its objectives are exactly those on which this local organization has worked earnestly and successfully for the past six years.

When one reads of the tragedies of other communities where fine examples of architecture have been demolished despite earnest efforts to save them, and other buildings have been so disfigured as to lose all significance, the

achievements of our small Southern city, with no governmental participation, becomes singularly impressive.

Of course, in the brief span of its existence Historic Savannah Inc. has been working almost breathlessly as one crisis after another arises in the never-ending battle of preservation. In fact, we have had more moments of despair than of exultation.

Nevertheless, we view with pride the Owens-Thomas house, the beautiful McAlpin home, the stately Davenport House on Columbia Square, the beautiful restoration done by the purchasers of the old Tavern on Oglethorpe Avenue, commonly known as the McIntosh House. There is also Marshall Row on Oglethorpe Avenue across from Colonial Cemetery, four fine old houses literally snatched from the wrecker’s hands and bought for restoration by Hy Sobilov, chairman of the board of a New York firm.

Our hearts have been recently lifted by the purchase of a trust lot on St. Julian Street,



Details

PARTY FOR THE PEARL OF PRESERVATION

Music for dancing providing by
Jeremy Davis and The Equinox Quintet

Food provide by
Bonefish Grill in association with
Vic's on the River and
Gigi's Cupcakes

Expect a signature cocktail
Silent auction paintings, gift
certificates, gift baskets, etc.

Skinny ties and pearls are
encouraged.

Tickets \$75 per person
Available online at
myhsf.org
By phone-912/236-8097

Event Sponsor:
OLD TOWN TROLLEY



corners everywhere, "Have you heard that the lovely little house next to Jane Wright's on Gordon street has been bought and will be preserved and the two little early 18th century houses which were sold to the wrecker have been bought and will be moved to safety on another location?" Gradually the area around Warren Square is turning into a little Williamsburg of our own, thanks to Frank Rossiter, Stella Henderson, the Lionel Drews, Jim Williams, John Cabell and others.

Our ghostly forefathers must walk the streets at night and rub their eyes as they see their erstwhile homes fresh and shining. Perhaps they say to themselves, 'Children have to grow up before they can learn.'

We are growing up but the growing pains are sometimes hard, especially when we have to listen to our retarded brethren who think that city planning, beautiful squares and historic atmosphere are all bunk.

ings now gone forever. They are the Hermitage plantation mansion, which stood on what is now Union Bag plant property, the Habersham House, and the old Courthouse which stood on the site of the present courthouse. Restored houses to be pictured are the Owens-Thomas House, now a house museum, the Weed-Sorrell House, and the Davenport House. Two whose future is still uncertain are the Scarborough House on West Broad Street and Historic Savannah's brick house on East York Street, recently in danger of demolition but currently available for restoration.

So you see, our sense of values has been awakened; we now realize the potential of old Savannah. And that sense of urgency in the air is the growing realization that we are on our way and that every day more Savannahians are getting the Historic Savannah fever.

Savannah Morning News.
January 8, 1961.

We jotted down some themes in this article which are pertinent to 2013:

- Collaboration between institutions for community betterment
- Sense of something new and community enthusiasm
- A "buzz" about preservation
- Recognition of the fragility of the preservation movement
- A call to arms
- Everything "old" is new again!
Get the fever!

on which three charming old houses are located by Mr. and Mrs. Mills B. Lane II. These will also be restored.

There is the Frances Stone House on Columbia Square, loaned by a member of Historic Savannah, Fred Wesels, and now occupied by a religious group.

Restorations Inc., has purchased a fine house on Lincoln Street and Mrs. Malcolm Logan has created a charming coach house apartment on Gordon Street. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Close have bought another old downtown house, the Myers home on Jones and Drayton.

Every day one realizes that the ferment is working in the yeast and Savannahians of all sorts and ages are saying eagerly to each other on street

But just when our minds are weary and our spirits drooping because there is so much to be done, Telfair gives us the best of all possible aid in the most fascinating way imaginable! In the upcoming exhibit, which will be open to the public Thursday, the best architectural authorities in the country are bringing evidence to our doors that we have a commercial goldmine in this old world town along the water in the heart of this modern city.

Pictured in Historic Savannah's supplement to the exhibit will be three valuable build-

