**Spring is Everything to Savannah and the Davenport House**

It’s been a long winter even for us. Our first glimpse of spring was at the fantastic Oyster Roast hosted by Mary and Howard Morrison at Lebanon Plantation. It was a gloriously warm day after several days of biting chill. Nature’s beauty was all around with majestic live oaks, lilies of the valley lining the paths, camellias and a few budding azaleas all in view at the outdoor event. The attendance was gratifying with so many supporting the DH by visiting Lebanon. It is cheering to see an old house still holding the attraction for so many.

All of the DH’s hopes are pinned on this belief – the attraction of an old house in the spring time. In the realm of Savannah tourist sites, everything comes down to the spring. Our planning revolves around March, April and May in order to capture our share of tourist patronage. And though we have diversified our income streams over the past decade to include the Oyster Roast, Friends, and site rentals, admissions income continues to be our largest budget income line. It is the line our Museum is most prepared to execute with our accurate period rooms, our welcoming staff and our trained (and delightful) docents.

As Savannah’s tourist options proliferate and as tastes change, the DH must be prepared to attract visitors and to meet their needs once on the property. To accomplish this, the DH needs to hear from you, our Museum community, about how it is doing, what we are doing right and what could be improved. The Museum depends on you for candid-in-the-family-commentary. Along with your contributions, we need your heart and your attention. Hopefully, that’s not asking too much.

Happy Spring! Looking forward to seeing you in our old house.

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**When Greatness Was in Our Midst: Why We Remember Lafayette**

Pilot Program: **Lafayette Fête** – April 6 and 13

On two Sunday afternoons in April, the Museum will revive the excitement surrounding the visit of General Lafayette to Savannah in 1825. Staff and volunteers will utilize the entire site with the Kennedy Pharmacy standing in for the Exchange Longroom where the ball took place on March 21, 1825 in conjunction with the General’s visit. The Museum house will showcase characters from the past and present, providing commentary on the occasion. And, if the weather is nice, the garden will hold treats and activities with a distinctively French flavor. If the weather fails us, the shop will sub for a spring garden. “This is a pilot program which the
Museum will adapt for future presentations. We presented a program on Lafayette several years ago, but felt that audience was not adequately aware of why we should honor the General. We hope this program accomplishes this,” says program developer Raleigh Marcell.

10 REASONS TO HONOR LAFAYETTE

1. **Teenage role model:** He began his military career at 19 serving without pay in our War for Independence. He was the youngest general on either side.

2. **Youthful courage and zeal attracted the attention of his superior:** Lafayette so impressed General George Washington he was made aide-de-camp. Lafayette fought with courage, risking his life and being wounded in action. He became Washington’s favorite foreign officer and served with distinction at Valley Forge.

3. **Greene connection:** Under General Nathanael Greene’s command, he led a reconnaissance mission. He ran into a Hessian force which outnumbered his men and drove them reeling from the field in defeat at Gloucester, New Jersey, November 1777.

4. **Used his own money:** His generosity to his American troops was legendary. He spent $200,000 of his own money on much needed items such as clothing and weapons, at a time when the American economy was on the verge of collapse.

5. **Military ingenuity:** Lafayette was chosen by Washington in 1781 to command American troops for the purpose of preventing Cornwallis from ravaging Virginia. An outnumbered Lafayette, with the aid of Generals Anthony Wayne and John Peter Muhlenberg, cleverly used guerrilla tactics to harass and corner the British commander and pin him down at Yorktown until he was defeated on October 19, 1781 by French and American armies under the command of General Washington.

6. **Friend in Paris:** After the American war, Lafayette became America’s greatest foreign political supporter adopting the Declaration of Independence as a model for political reform in France. He helped Jefferson in commercial ventures such as French importation of farm products from American farmers, including corn, flour and tobacco.

7. **Nation’s Guest:** President Monroe invited him to America as the nation’s guest from August 1824 to September 1825, when he visited all twenty-four states of the union, setting off a patriotic fervor unmatched in American history. He was the last living general of the Revolution and a friend of Washington. This ushered in the time of Jubilee – the 50th anniversary of American Independence.

8. **His life and work inspired international relations:** The American flag has flown at his gravesite since World War I, when General Pershing visited the tomb. American pilots who fought with French aces during World War I named their squadron The Lafayette Escadrille.

9. **His name’s sake:** No other foreign dignitary has ever had so many places named in their honor. (Lafayette, Fayette, LaGrange, etc.)

10. **Equality of man:** Lafayette’s firm commitment to equality of all men challenged the institution of slavery in America and was a subject of contention amongst his peers – the American Founding Fathers.

Adapted from http://www.friendsoflafayette.org/27-reasons.html

See details about the Lafayette Fête in the list of upcoming programs on the DH website. www.davenporthousemuseum.org

**SPRING DH PROGRAMS**

**EARLY BIRD’S PRESERVATION WALKING TOUR OF THE LANDMARK HISTORIC DISTRICT’S EAST SIDE**

**Saturdays in April 2014**

**PROGRAM DATES:** April 5, 12, 19, 26

**TIME:** 8 a.m.

**LENGTH OF PROGRAM:** 100 min.

**ADMISSION:** $21

**DISTANCE OF WALK:** 2.5 miles

Take an early morning walk through one of the oldest and most varied neighborhoods to learn how historic preservation has revitalized downtown Savannah. Coffee and treats in the Davenport House garden to follow.

**NEW! - LAFAYETTE FETE: FAMILY FUN WITH A FRENCH FLAIR (pilot)**

**PROGRAM DATES:** Sunday, April 6 and Sunday, April 13, 2014

**TIME:** 4:30 p.m. Reservations encouraged. Admission limited.

**ADMISSION:** $10 per adult, $5 per child under 17

**LENGTH OF PROGRAM:** 75 min.

Experience the frivolity in anticipation of General Lafayette’s visit to Savannah in spring 1825. Light refreshments a la francaise.

**TEA IN THE GARDEN AT THE DAVENPORT HOUSE**

**Thursdays and Fridays in May 2014**

**PROGRAM DATES AND TIMES:** May 1, 2, 8, 9, 15 and 16 at 4:30 p.m. and 22, 23, 29 and 30 at 5:00 p.m.

**LENGTH OF PROGRAM:** 60 to 75 min.

**ADMISSION:** $18

Reservations recommended. Limited attendance.

Learn about tea traditions and experience an early 19th century tea in Davenport House’s beautiful courtyard garden.

**DISCOVERING 1820S SAVANNAH: EARLY BIRD’S WALKING TOUR OF THE CITY ISAIAS KNED**

**Saturdays in May 2014**

**PROGRAM DATES:** May 4, May 11, May 18, May 25

**TIME:** 8 a.m.

**LENGTH OF PROGRAM:** 120 min.

**DISTANCE OF WALK:** 2.5 miles

**ADMISSION:** $21

See what survives of the 1820s Savannah that master builder Isaiah Davenport knew. Coffee and treats in the Davenport House garden will follow.

For details: 912/236-8097 info@davenporthousemuseum.org
People look at you funny when you tell them you are excited that archaeologists found the Davenports’ privy. They must not know that people in the past used their privies for more than the obvious. Privies were the garbage dumps of old and often reveal a wealth of knowledge about the history of a location.

After committing to do an archaeological survey of the DH property in January, we got scared that the property has been so disturbed that there was nothing there to find. That would have been fine from the public programming aspect since at least 100 people came to the site either through the workshop or for the eight day excavation and learned about the value of archaeology. By day six of the excavation we were beginning to feel we had done our “due diligence” and could leave it at that. Then they found a privy on the lot line between Lots 13 and 14. Our archaeologists were so excited about the find that they worked two extra days in the winter chill to thoroughly go over the test pit.

What follows are progress notes from project manager Rita Elliot of LAMAR Institute. JC

IMMEDIATE FINDINGS OF JANUARY 2014
ARCHAEOLOGY AT THE DAVENPORT HOUSE
(More to come as LAMAR Institute analyzes the field data)

1. Archaeology located and documented a 19th century privy on the lot line between Lots 13 and 14.

2. We determined that the privy that straddles the lot line was used as an out-house (toilet) and as a place to throw trash, such as broken dishes, broken bottles, and smelly animal bones.

3. We documented numerous, complicated lenses of privy use, indicating likely cleaning, reuse, and final filling. MYSTERY - Did the Davenport household use this privy and which lot(s) did it serve?

4. Archaeology discovered an unexpected sealed deposit of colonial artifacts from the 1730s-1770s. (Columbia Ward did not exist during the colonial period; therefore, no one should be using this area.) MYSTERY - Why are these colonial deposits of dishes, bottles, and food remains here?

5. Scientific excavation revealed that the privy cuts through these earlier colonial deposits.

6. Careful excavation also revealed that the privy was itself cut by a row of wooden posts along the lot line. MYSTERY - What is the title history of Lots 13 and 14 and how were they divided, combined, or subdivided over time?

7. Archaeology determined the depth of various layers of soil over time. Intact layers of soils and artifacts from the 19th century begin 15 inches below the ground surface. Colonial period layers begin at 27 inches below the ground surface. Some features, such as the privy, extend to approximately 6 feet below the ground surface. MYSTERY - Which if any of the buried layers were original ground surfaces?
8. The ground penetrating radar survey and excavation of radar targets located both modern and historical features in the yard.

9. The discoveries are just beginning! For the next several months lab work will examine not only the artifacts excavated from the site (ceramics, bottles, nails, buttons, animal bone, etc.), but will study the scaled maps, detailed notes, and photographs made during the dig to understand the complicated soil zones and what they can reveal about the people using the privy and landscape.

Lab work will include the analyses of soils from the site to identify pollen, phytoliths ("Fi toe liths" – certain plant remains), and seeds to learn about the environment on the lot, as well as the diet of those living on the lot. Lab work will include the detailed study of the animal bones recovered (pig, cow, chicken, turtle, fish scales, egg shells) to analyze not only the diet of those using the lot, but also to study economic status and ethnicity. When analyses and additional research are complete, many of the mysteries above, along with some old ones from our research questions and some new ones, will be solved. This, along with other information, will be included in the report and made available to the public.

Stay tuned!

DH Project Archaeologists
P. T. Ashlock, Rita Elliott, Daphne Owens and Joel Jones.

SIGHTS FROM THE DH IN THE WINTER AND EARLY SPRING

Judge Harris Lewis performed seven weddings on Valentine’s Day 2014.

Winter 2014 DH Docent Training Class

Newest DH Tea program performers: Sage Hooten as Martha Louisiana Johnson and Ariannah Kubli as Mary Smith, granddaughter of Margaret Bayard Smith.
This time of year we get misty at the thought of saying farewell to the young people who the DH has nurtured and in turn have made the Museum a more vital place. Three active DH Junior Interpreters who are also DH staff docents will graduate from Savannah Arts Academy this spring. We wish them success and happiness!

What follows are their answers to DH questions.

LIANA MOSLEY
Parent: Carol S. Mosley

How long have you been at the DH? I've been involved with the DH for two years now.

What things have you been involved in here? I've been a part of the J.I. Program, Yellow Fever(!!), Holiday Evening Tours, SuperMuseumSunday, and the Tour of Homes and Gardens.

College Plans: I will definitely attend college in the fall, though I'm still waiting to hear from Vanderbilt, Duke, and the University of Richmond before I make my decision. So far, I've been accepted into the University of Georgia, Mercer, and the University of Maryland - Honors College.

What can you say about your time at the DH and how it prepared you (for anything)? I consider my time at the DH my greatest accomplishment in high school; it has taught me so many valuable life skills and lessons like professionalism, confidence, and positivity. I sincerely thank the DH for this incredible opportunity and for allowing me to grow and mature with the help of a supportive work-family.

Plans for the future (college, etc.): I plan to be either a doctor or a professional singer. Go big or go home!

Things we will remember about Liana: Liana has unbridled enthusiasm for the DH! And, for years we did not know she is a talented singer who fronts a jazz band.

CLARE DEVLIN
Parents: Phil and Suzanne Devlin

College plans: University of Georgia

How long have you been at the DH? 2 years

What things have you been involved in here? Mentoring Junior Interpreters for JI Day, SuperMuseumSunday, Holiday Evening Tours. My favorite volunteer activity is Super Museum Sunday because there's such a high energy in the house and it's fun to visit with locals for a change!

College Plans: I plan on majoring in business management at UGA.

What can you say about your time at the DH and how it prepared you (for anything)? My time at the Davenport House has been one of the most influential experiences of my high school years. This line of work is full of such passionate and interesting people and I never would've been exposed to it had it not been for the Junior Interpreters Program.

What is your career aspiration (or future aspiration)? I want to be a college history professor.

Up for the challenge: The DH always needs young actors for its Yellow Fever program. Not knowing if Leo had any gifts in that direction he was asked if he would be willing to be involved. He was a natural - performing as a young Scotsman anxious at the progress of the fever!
Mark Your Calendar for the DH SPRING GARDEN PARTY for Friends & Volunteers Sunday, June 1 from 6 to 8 p.m.
This celebration is the DH’s thank you to those who make it successful.

For information about the Museum:
324 E. State Street
Savannah, GA 31401
www.davenporthousemuseum.org
912/236-8097
info@davenporthousemuseum.org
Facebook: “Davenport House Museum”
Tours are offered Monday through Saturday
10 a.m. until 4 p.m.
when the last tour begins and on Sunday from 1 until 4 p.m.

Friends of the Davenport House: Annual Giving Response Info
☐ $1—49 – Brick Mason  ☐ $50—149 – Carpenter  ☐ $150—249 – Master Builder
☐ $250—599 – Alderman  ☐ $600—999-Fire Warden  ☐ $1000—McKinnon Circle

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Send to: Davenport House Museum, 324 E. State Street, Savannah, GA 31401

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