



Davenport House Museum Volunteer Newsletter



August 2016

www.davenportmuseum.org

912/236-8097

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New Mail Arrangement – According to the new contacts advertised from the Post Master General, the northern mail from the first of January next, will be received here, every day at 6 o'clock, A.M. and leave at 3 P.M. If this arrangement is carried into effect, it will, we are sure give general satisfaction to every portion of the community of Savannah, particularly to the mercantile part, as by it, they will be enabled to answer letters received the same day and not be prevented from acknowledging them for twenty-four hours after receipt, which often occurs under the existing regulations. It will also give us a daily mail, which we have been precluded from by the present arrangement for several years. We allude to the now arrival of the mail on every Monday in each week. It is to be hoped therefore, that Mr. McLean will have carried into effect a measure calculated in benefit, & which meets with the sanction of the citizens of this place.



Savannah Republican. August 3, 1826.

Twenty Dollar Reward.

On Monday the 17th inst. a Trunk containing a considerable quantity of valuable clothing, such as Coats, Pantaloon, Vest, & several articles of Jewellery, a Hand Box containing a new Beaver Hat, a bundle containing, among other articles of course Clothing, a Violin and a pair of new Boots (from which the Violin and Books are missing,) the property of Edward Hensen, a free man of color, and late steward of the ship Gen. Lingan, was put on board a Vineyard Pilot Boat, commanded by MR. Johns, one of the



pilots of this port, from said ship, which he had piloted out, with a request to take them up to the City and deposit them in a place of safety, so that they might come to the possession of said Hensen then laying sick in town. As said Trunk and Band Box, with their contents, together with the Violin and Books, have not been received, and as no trace of them can be discovered, no doubt exists but that they have been feloniously taken from the boat after her arrival, I therefore offer a reward of Twenty Dollars for such information as will lead in the recovery of the property, or the conviction of the thief or thieves.

J. George

Guardian of E. Hensen.

Savannah Georgian. August 1, 1826.

A PICTURE

Of Greece in 1825,

As exhibited in the personal Narratives of James Emerson, Esq. comprising a detailed account of the late campaign, and Sketches of the principal Military, Naval and Political Chiefs, in two volumes.

The above work is just published and for sale by S.C. & J. Scenk.

Savannah Georgian. August 9, 1826.

THE CATERPILLER – We hear from letters received in town from McIntosh county, St. Marys, Amelia Island and other places south of us, that the caterpillar has again made its appearance and commenced its ravages on the cotton crops, which otherwise are promising. Last year the destruction of cotton, by this insect, was very great, and fears are entertained that it will be repeated this present season.

Savannah Georgian. August 10, 1826.

The following melancholy confession is taken from the back of a \$20 Planter's Bank Note, and no doubt drawn forth by a awful experience. It is distressingly pathetic indeed:

-- "Go, go! – twelve months ago I was worth two thousand of your amount, but alas to day I am now not worth one dollar. Oh Cotton! Cotton!! Cotton!"



Savannah Georgian. August 17, 1826.

DAVENPORT HOUSE CALENDAR

August 2016

Wednesday, August 3 at 5 p.m. –

Dance rehearsal

Thursday, August 4 at 2 p.m. –

Logistics meeting for Gathering of Experts

Saturday, August 6 at 9:30 a.m. –

Tour and Hospitality

Wednesday, August 10 at 5 p.m. –

Dance rehearsal

Thursday, August 11 at 8:30 a.m.

– Davenport House Endowment Directors Quarterly Meeting

Tuesday, August 16 at 11 a.m. –

Davenport House Committee meeting

Wednesday, August 17 at 5 p.m. –

Dance rehearsal

Wednesday, August 24 at 5 p.m. –

Dance rehearsal

Friday, August 26 – Saturday,

August 27 – Gathering of Experts/Urban Slavery

TOUR RESERVATIONS:

Friday, August 5 at 10 a.m. (16p)

and 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and

12:30 p.m. 25 p for each time

slot – Old Savannah Tours

Tuesday, August 23 at 3 p.m./44

people – Diamond Tours

SHOP NEWS:

New Books in Stock

Tybee Days: One Hundred Years on Georgia's Playground Island by Ellen Lyle Taber and Polly Wylly Cooper (\$19.95)

Ten Tea Parties: Patriotic Protests that History Forgot by Joseph Cummins (\$18.95)

The First American Cookbook by Amelia Simmons (\$5.95)

A Real Southern Cook in her Savannah Kitchen by Dora Charles (\$25)

Tea and Taste: The Visual Language of Tea by Tania M. Buckrell Pos (\$35)

New Merchandise in Stock:

Savannah Gates design round cookie dish (\$25)

Savannah Gates design wine caddy (\$21)

Savannah Gates design teabag holder (\$8.50)

Blue and white teapots (\$16)

Antique Brass Shell Bottle openers (\$8.99)

Framed Silhouettes (a range of prices)

Variety of lockets – cameos, watch, heart (a range of prices)

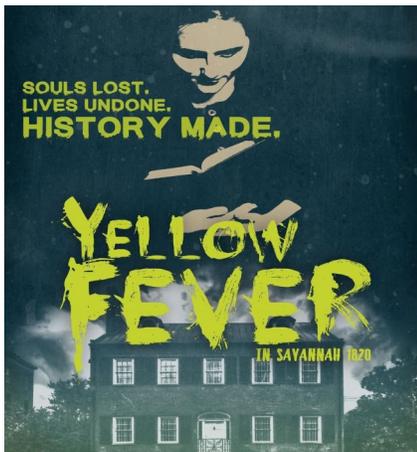


PLANNING FOR OCTOBER -

YELLOW FEVER:

BACK AND DEADLIER THAN EVER! YOU CAN'T KEEP A GOOD FEVER DOWN – AT THE DAVENPORT HOUSE

The DH will resurrect the yellow fever epidemic of 1820 in October with several changes from



previous productions. The first part of the two part program involves a presentation using period images that will give the audience a sense of what it was like to have the doctor visit you in your home and what medical techniques were available. Patrons will see additional rooms when the show moves into the house from the Kennedy Pharmacy. Also, the action will include the portrayal of three different Savannahians - the mayor, a prominent physician in town and this year we are portraying a character unique in Savannah's history **Dr. Mary Lavander**, Georgia's first female doctor, along with Jamal Toure's composite portrayal of a free man of color during the time of crisis.

We are finalizing the script and are assembling a cast. Rehearsals will begin in August. Performers this year will include Jamal Touré, Jeff Freeman, Raleigh Marcell, Barbara Sue Crane, Maggie Hannan, John Leonti, Anna Smith, Dirk Hardison, Jody Leyva and others.

There will be one performance per evening for up to 48 people on Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m. except October 15th.

DOCENTS NEWS:

- **Training Program:** The DH is gathering names for the next Docent Training Class which will take place in October. Please let your friends and acquaintances know of this opportunity. Our greatest strength is the commitment of our fine docent corps.

- **Groups coming in September:** In August the DH will plan for fall programs and tour groups. Docents please expect emails about this. **Madeira motor coach** groups begin on Friday, September 9. A full slate of **Diamond Tours** is scheduled to begin on September 13th. We will certainly need all the help we can get! **Road Scholars** groups begin on Tuesday, September 27 from 4 to 6 p.m. with the

emphasis on Urban Slavery. **KNOW WE NEED YOU.**

COLLECTIONS:



The DH has acquired some new ceramic items for its collection. Several lots of Chinese export pieces were purchased. Most of the pieces are on the bottom shelf of the Dining Room corner cabinet and will be more visible come holiday time. However, a beautiful pitcher is on the server for all to see.

Also:

New item on exhibit in the Master Bedroom



- **Pap Boat** – Pap boats date from as early as the 16th century and were made from a variety of materials, including silver and pewter. Ours is ceramic. They were used to feed infants pap, a dietary supplement to breast or animal milk. Pap was usually a mixture of bread, water and flour though sometimes sugar or butter might be added.

Sources: phisick.com > Items > Apothecary > Feeding and Medication > Pap Boats - <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2684040/>

In storage but available for exhibit:

- **Nursing bottle** – *While wet nurses remained in high demand during the 19th century, nursing bottles were sometimes used in their place. Often cow's milk or goat's milk was used. The hole in the top was used to fill the bottle. When feeding the baby, the mother would place her thumb over the hole in the top to control the flow of the liquid. One of the problems with this type of nursing bottle was that it was hard to clean thoroughly (sterilization was not practiced at this*

point) so over time infants were exposed to harmful bacteria and germs that affected their health. Animal milk also lacked some important nutrients found in breast milk.

Sources: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2684040/>

DONATIONS IN JULY:

Jeff and LeeAnn Kole
ExxonMobil Foundation/Diane and Dan Reitman

In memory of Elizabeth Muller

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Bradley
Jamie Credle and Raleigh Marcell
Archie and Sally Davis
Clare and Wiley Ellis
Martie Emerson
Cornelia Groves
Nancy Hartmann
Sheppie Turley Quinn

GATHERING OF EXPERTS:

AUGUST 26 – 27

The DH is moving forward with its plans for the Kennedy Pharmacy and the museum house. An important step forward will be a gathering of scholars who will make recommendations on the interpretation of the lower level of the house which will emphasize urban slavery. The group includes twelve scholars and preservation professionals – some from Savannah and other from Charleston, Colonial Williamsburg and Washington, DC. They will be in and around Savannah on Friday, August 26 and at the DH on Saturday, August 27. Friday will be a day of exploring and understanding Savannah's antebellum slavery past. Saturday will be a day to understand the DH – its interpretation, operations and plans. While a schedule has been created for the visit, assistance with hospitality, transportation and note taking would be appreciated. Please let Jamie know if you would like to be involved.

WORTH MENTIONING:

- **College Folk:** In mid-August we will say farewell to our college bound friends Chelsea Dyers, Sage Hooten, Ariannah Kubli, and Mary Allison McCarthy who will leave to become

college freshman, and will join our upper classmen - Kate Bosen, Catie Morris, Usha Rahn, and Cierra Smith, who are also returning to college in August. These young people made the summer tour schedule manageable! Study hard and return to us at Christmas.

- HSF Gala:

Saturday, October 15, 2016

Columbia Square –

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Landmark District
Privately hosted cocktail parties: 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

Dinner and Live Entertainment in the Square: 7:00 pm – 11:00 pm
Open seating is available this year so you can mingle all night long!

Early bird tickets begin on July 1st for members.

- **Hey Mick, He's our guy:** Mick McCay is our exhibits designer and created the interactive "DH by the Numbers" activity in the hall. He knows that the panel is going to receive a beating and has repaired it twice (for free). The current version is in the hall now. Thank you!
- **Stacy is our girl:** The DH participated in a FAM (familiarization tour for tour operators) on Tuesday, July 27. They had a grand time on their special visit which included a dance demonstration. Jeff, Raleigh and Jamie were there to shake a leg as well Stacy Hess, our beautiful volunteer dancer, who is always there to help when the DH needs her to perform.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Krya Frew

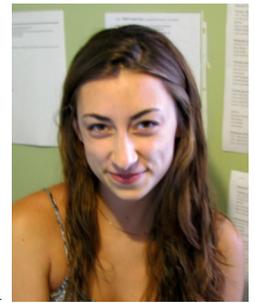
DH: *How did you come to be associated with the Davenport*

House?

Kyra: In early spring, I came across a posting for a summer internship at the Davenport House. I wrote Jamie expressing my interest immediately and we met soon after to discuss what my responsibilities would be. She was so passionate and enthusiastic about the home, and I left our meeting inspired to spend my summer at the Davenport House.

DH: *What do you do outside of the DH?*

Kyra: I am a student at the Savannah College of Art & Design, pursuing a B.A. in Historic Preservation with a minor in Art History.



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

Kyra: The kind staff and how warmly they have welcomed me this summer.

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

Kyra: As I have only been interning at the Davenport House since May, I cannot say I've come across anything particularly unusual yet.

DH: *How long have you been in Savannah?*

Kyra: In September, I will have lived in Savannah for three years. I grew up in the small town of Hershey, Pennsylvania.

DH: *If you have lived somewhere else, what did you like or dislike about it?*

Kyra: Hershey was a very sweet town to grow up in, but is incomparable to Savannah. I am in complete admiration of how walkable this city is and how much history and culture it holds. The Spanish moss draped trees, historic city squares and ornate architecture create an atmosphere unlike anything that had surrounded me in the north.

DH: *What is your favorite thing to do in Savannah?*

Kyra: Walking through the city and visiting local coffee shops, bookstores and museums.

DH: *What are your plans for your future?*

Kyra: I have always been drawn to art and architectural history and its preservation, and I plan to follow that devotion. I am fortunate to be pursuing an education that excites me and allows my passion to grow. Throughout my career I am determined to absorb all of the knowledge and experience I am able to, so that I can best protect our history for future generations.

A look at the Davenport House guest register, during the month of July 2016 the Davenport House saw visitors from 38 states and 12 countries. Our international visitors came to us from Australia, Austria, Canada, Chile, China, England, France, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Poland, and Sweden. Interesting hometown names include Locust Fork, AL, Siloam Springs, AR, Haberson, DE, Manito, IL, Nicholasville, KY, Eunice, LA, Temperance, MI, Edine, MN, Clintonville, NV, Clyde, NY, Norman, OK, Yankton, SD, Trempealeau, WI.

How They Heard About Us (in descending order of

Internet (Groupon, Trip Advisor, Google); Tour Guides (Ghost Adventures, Owens-Thomas House, Andrew Low House); Trolley Tours (Old Town Trolley, Old Savannah Tours); Brochures; Concierge (Kehoe House, Hampton Inn, 17Hundred90 Inn, Marriott, Staybridge Suites, Presidents Quarters, DeSoto Hilton, Holiday Inn); Walk Bys; Relatives; Guide Books (AAA, Fodor's, Frommer's); Friends; Visitors Center; Repeat Visit; Magazines; Maps; Local; Books; Class; Girl Scouts; Television.

What They Had To Say About Us

"Loved it." "Great tour." "Beautiful home!" "Phenomenal! Awesome!" "Awesome house! Loved Marty as our guide." "Awesome tour guide!" "Terrific tour!" "Very beautiful and historic." "Dirk, Barbara Sue and Cierra were outstanding!" "Dirk is an excellent tour guide!" "Very informative. Thanks for preserving history!" "Joyce as a great guide! What a beautiful treat!" "Thanks, Katherine. We enjoyed it!" "Good job, Katherine! Thanks!" "Lovely home. Loved the floors and the beautiful molding." "Awesome building and trees!" "Beautiful! We were here in the early 90s and it is so much prettier!" "Loved Catie's tour." "Very good tour from Susan!" "Diane was very pleasant and interesting." "Excellent tour with Joyce." "Bonnie was great!" "Enjoyed the history. Great guide!" "Awesome tour. Our work was amazing!" "Lovely! Great work!" "Marvelous job on restoration." "Linda was very informative." "Sage gave a great tour. Impressed with her knowledge!" "Very beautiful stairs." "Great tour from Gayle." "Fantastic. Very educational." "Beautiful. Authentic restoration." "Tyra was an excellent tour guide." "Best tour guide ever!"

The DH is in Lord Harewood's Pocket: Travels to England

Traveling is like catching a disease. Once you let your condition be known, everyone else (or many people) has it or knows someone who has it, and they provide help and support. When dear DHers found out that I was traveling to the UK, they came to my aid and provided guidance, knowing that I needed it. Please know that every bit of it from making a copy of my passport and itinerary, to letting my bank know I was traveling, to getting an Oyster Card (for the London subway), to hotel reservations and suggestions on how to dress and pack (and drag my suitcase through London), were used in the execution of my adventure. And though the experiences have not transformed me into Ric Steves, I managed to get myself from Savannah to England and back -- from airport to subway to hotel to train station and back -- by myself without a catastrophe. Thank you! Only once did I feel totally anxious. As I stood in line at immigration at Heathrow Airport, I thought to myself, "I don't know anyone in this COUNTRY!" (which was not exactly the case but close).

The program I participated in was not a vacation by any means -- though you may think that three weeks traveling the English countryside looking at historic houses could be that. The 65th Attingham Summer School was a finely crafted experience

culminating in seventeen days of study, with lectures many evenings until 9:30 p.m., and site visits (34 sites) with museum people from around the world (America, England, Ireland, Scotland, France, The Netherlands, Austria, China, Croatia, The Czech Republic, New Zealand, Australia). Prior to arrival, the planners determine the curriculum with a clear family focus and a "network across time" of craftsman and stewardship, and gained entrée into houses, many under private ownership. As my new colleagues assembled, we began the course with a reiteration of its mission: To examine the architectural and social history of the historic houses in Britain and its gardens and landscape setting; To study the contents of these buildings -- their paintings, sculpture, etc. as well as the planning, decorative treatment and use of interiors; To stimulate debate on problems related to conservation and presentation of the country house and its contents. Now, you must be saying, what in the world does this have to do with running the Davenport House? Though I said in jest to some of my fellow participants, that the DH is the antithesis of an English Country House, this is certainly not the truth. The DH has the same



IDEAS AND CONCEPTS FROM 3 WEEKS IN ENGLAND

(which may require further information)

- Ha-ha – a landscape feature
- Torch – a flashlight
- “Mind the gap” – *Tube* terminology
- National Trust – largest charity in England; more members than any political party (250 houses)
- English Heritage – used to be part of the government but now operates in a similar manner to the National Trust; owns properties
- Historic House Association – private owners belong (1500 houses, 350 open to the public)
- Inalienable right to property ownership – concept of house ownership of National Trust
- Death duties
- Ancient Monuments Act – 1882
- National Heritage Act 1983
- Conservation synonymous with preservation – in the U.K.
- Fire is not the end of the road – saw many homes that have had a major fire
- Conditional exemption – homes open for a certain amount of time (sometimes 55 days a year); displaying chattel
- NT concepts—>>Move, Teach, Inspire <<>>and/or<<>> Teach, Delight, Move
- A Croatian colleague (about my age) said her favorite bands growing up were Lynyrd Skynyrd and The Allman Brothers

issues as other sites open to the public, including country houses, and I received the benefit of seeing how historic houses

are planned for and where they fit within the cultural and recreational landscape. As I anticipated taking the course, a colleague, who took it years ago, said, “It changed the way I look at the world.” While I am still bleary from the experience, it has certainly changed the way I see the world, particularly the way I see historic houses and where they fit. In England, they are front and center!

The course leader proclaimed that we will “*learn together intensively*.” Every moment was planned to maximize discovery in a short amount of time. We also *ate together intensively*. Each day began with a hearty English breakfast of what looked like ham but they called it bacon, sausage, eggs, triangle wedges of hash browns, cooked tomatoes, sautéed mushrooms and baked beans served with orange juice and not so great coffee, toast and marmalade. On special mornings there was blood pudding there for the taking. Once up, we headed out on the road. The class held 50 people with four coordinators – the number that fits into a British motor coach.



Harewood House, Leeds, Yorkshire, England

It is going to take weeks if not months to digest the course’s contents. However, there is one episode that I would like for you to know about which took place at Harewood House. Our previsited reading materials included, “The estate had been purchased by Lord Harewood’s father Henry Lascelles (1690-1753), a wealthy English-born Barbados plantation owner in 1738, and it was the extensive family fortune based on sugar that provided the funds to build a house.” Well, you know what that means. On the bus, the coordinator said the “the current Lord Harewood makes no qualms about how the house was paid for and readily admits to the slave past of his ancestors.” This is the first I had heard anything like this, a discussion of slavery’s role in the amassing the great wealth that was the underpinning of the construction of many of these great home (or a least this one). Yet another parallel with the DH and what we do.

Now mind you the previous night we had been given a fine talk by the Curator of Castle Howard on its efforts at making

Flexibility – layers of programming

Audience - not a single entity

Various perspectives should not be mutually exclusive

Collective clout – join forces with other sites

Defy the visitors' expectations

How to manage continuity and change

Visitor Surveys found for many, "It is not the house but the house in its setting."

The approach – landscape emphasis

Look at the tapestries – 16th century the golden age

Music in the home was participatory and interactive

"As a child I did not expect my home to be warm." – UK friends said about growing up

Décolletage! – saw a lot in paintings

Grand Tour

Lime plaster will last for ever. Gypsum /plaster of Paris – late 18th century

Robert Adam! – Interiors and exteriors

Capability Brown - landscapes



Ceiling, Long Gallery, Harewood House

ends meet, the power of using "the word" through archival materials to enliven the story that is told, etc. And, I had a cold which made hearing clearly problematic. These might explain what happened next.

As the group assembled in the seventy-four foot gallery of Harewood House amongst the plasterwork designed by Robert Adam, Thomas Chippendale furniture, and red damask wall coverings crowded with paintings by artists of international renown, I took a seat. Up walks a man who welcomed us and introduces us to the house. His remarks began with slavery and Harewood. He added that "half of the great institutions including the church, Oxford and Cambridge made money from agricultural endeavors based on slave labor." As 2007, the bicentennial of the abolition of the slave trade in England, approached they were faced with options: 1. Say nothing and pretend it did not happen, 2. Exhibit a few materials, or 3. Engage with the legacy of slavery at the site. They chose the latter which included putting documents on the website, coordinating and producing a range of exhibits including a contemporary art exhibit, presenting and putting on a musical performance in commemoration. He offered that no matter what, they would "damned if you do and damned if you don't." Since 2007 the relationships fostered have remained.

I had the DH's urban slavery brochure in my coat pocket and I was

impressed with his talk. Following his remarks, I made my way up to the gentleman thinking that he was a museum person and may like to see what other places are doing to openly (and daily) discuss the subject. He looked rather hurried as I handed him the brochure. He noted that slavery was "pervasive in our society" but many feel detached from it. He tentatively took the brochure, stuffed it in his pocket and I walked off.

We made our way to one of the Museum's beautifully appointed rooms. It was only then that I realized as the curator was explaining the room that I had not handed by brochure to an academic sort but had put it into the hand of the EARL OF HAREWOOD, the first cousin once removed from the Queen of England. Goodness gracious. I flushed at the realization that I had breached protocol by speaking to him informally. Should I have curtsied?! Being in good standing with property owners is how the group is able to get into all of the places it does. I had to wait until the tour was over to explain what I had done the coordinator, who thought it was no big deal. I was told the Earl encourages conversation on all areas of Harewood House's interpretation. So just know that Lord Harewood is aware of the DH if he bothered to look at the printed materials in his pocket.

I look forward to sharing more with you about the Attingham Summer Program.

Our event sponsors and patrons

2016 Lowcountry Boil, Oyster Sampler and Chicken Buffet

They made the event a success.

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