History and Our Appeal: Davenport House . . . At this Point

As I write this, President George H.W. Bush’s funeral is being broadcast live on our desktop computers. I can’t help but watch as the world has gathered to say good-bye to a decent and heroic national leader who lived a long life of service. Why can’t I look away? Because, it is the mixture of national pageantry, wishing a farewell to someone I feel I knew personally and getting a glimpse into our country’s contemporary drama. It is history. On a day like today, history seems to matter to everyone.

At the DH, history matters every day and we try to make it matter to everyone who comes to visit. Ours is not a story of national greatness, but one that is no less poignant though it is certainly less known. The DH has given us the opportunity to provide visitors with a glimpse into another time and to make sense of its strangeness. It is strange! Really. Pregnancy with no prenatal care and no anesthesia. Life without a shower. Human bondage.

When our Harvest Lecture speaker Cheyney McKnight explained why she is a living historian, she said she finds purpose in telling the stories of everyday lives. So do we! And, telling our stories deepens our visitors’ understanding of this place. As we find out more about the people who lived in the house, we ponder these unanswerable questions - Did they dream at the end of the day or were they too tired? How did they manage to put one step in front of another after losing children? What decisions did they have to make? What was it like . . .

As faithful DH Friends, you are aware of all of this and you take seriously what the Museum does or you would not support it financially. While many dismiss what we do as trivial, you are stand-up people. You appreciate and value research and analysis of historical data and then interpreting it for others in a unique and authentic setting. You see the value in studying and challenging assumptions, as well as communicating persuasively. That’s what we as historians do. This newsletter includes a sampling of the history we do—research, collections care, teaching as well out outreach to new audiences.

Thank you for your support this past year. It allowed us to meet our commitments as we plan for the future. Last year at this time and in this space we said that
“the DH was on the verge.” You may be thinking, “On the verge of what?” Just like the study of history, the process of moving forward is complex and we must pay attention to details – if it is to be done well! HSF and the DH have big announcements and significant plans for 2019, but you must hold tight for formal announcements until all is prepared in a thoughtful way.

Look for news in the New Year! And, for those of you who have given to this year’s Annual Appeal, know that your kind contributions will be put to good use. If you have not made your donation yet, know that the DH is a self-supporting entity which does not receive operating support from any governmental entity. Your support is needed if you want this site to be a “first class museum.” Daily admissions, event income and rental fees do not cover the expenses of maintenance, staffing and upkeep of the historic property.

As we wind down the year and reflect on our accomplishments of the past twelve months, while pondering the work that needs to be done in the coming year, we remember another quote from Cheyney McKnight in November. When asked why teach history, particularly - why teach history to the next generation, she said, “We want them [children] to learn history so they will be better than us.” And, teaching history and serving the public gives us a purpose. It is one of GHWB’s 1000 points of light!

Happy New Year! JC

HOLIDAY SHOPPING and Beyond! You will find appropriate gifts for the season at the Davenport House Shop. Friends of the Davenport House always received a 20% discount on purchases.

“The excellence of a gift lies in its appropriateness rather than its value.” Charles Dudley Warner
Sandra Attales is a contemporary visual artist working and living in Islamorada, FL. She received her B.F.A. in painting from the Savannah College of Art and Design.

Involving landscape as the subject, Attales’ primary interest is in distance, edge and light. She explores this type of depth, not as a way to identify specific places, but as a way to create environments that move back and forth. There is also a fascination with limited and compressed space involving shorter distances between the viewer and the subject. Memory and experience speak to the viewer in a familiar way through form and content.

With the lane being a private space that also serves as a captivating realm of transition, the artist’s technique brings a mysterious narrative of compressed expansion and solitude.

Gallery profits from the show will be donated to the Davenport House Museum and specifically to their new programming about the importance and history of the lanes of Savannah.

DH Community members: Please attend!
Hugh McCall (1767 - 1824)

Soldier, Historian, Civil Servant, Davenport Family

By Jennifer McCarthy

Hugh McCall was a soldier, an author, a civil servant and a friend of the Davenport family. He was significant enough to the Davenports that they named their son after him and wealthy enough that he could provide financial assistance when the Davenports needed it. But aside from the information available about his service during the War of 1812 and his being recognized for writing one of the first books on the history of Georgia, The History of Georgia, Containing Brief Sketches of the Most Remarkable Events Up to the Present Day not much is known about McCall and even less is known about how a single civil servant became friends with a builder and his growing family. Though there is a limited source of information available on McCall, by examining the lives of his friends and family, including the Davenports, a portrait of the man began to emerge. This information about McCall helps enhance the narrative of the Davenport House Museum. The Davenport family did not live in a vacuum. They had friends and visitors. It is likely McCall came to visit the Davenport family and certainly Isaiah Davenport visited McCall’s house. By exploring the narrative of McCall, the Davenport family story moves beyond the front door of the house and into the community. It gives a larger idea of what life was like for the household and residents in 1820s Savannah.

Hugh McCall was born 17 February 1767 in Mecklenburg, North Carolina. He was the second of eight children. He had an older brother, Thomas, and at least two younger sisters who survived into adulthood. The family moved to South Carolina when Hugh was little. Their father, James, was a farmer who was part of early independence efforts and served as a Colonel during the Revolutionary War. Young Thomas also joined the Army and served with The Swamp Fox, Francis Marion. Hugh was too young to fight for independence but as soon as he was old enough, he joined the military. In 1794 he is listed as serving as an ensign in the Army. He had a chance to serve his country during the War of 1812. He was recognized for his service by being made a brevet major in the Infantry. Even though he was awarded this special rank, his time in the military was not without scandal. The Savannah Morning News recounted that on October 22, 1814, McCall was cited for unbecoming conduct and relieved of his duty as city jailer. He “…held conversation with a British prisoner of war, in a room with closed doors.” McCall was removed from his job as jailer, a job he had held since 1808, but after a brief investigation, City Council narrowly voted to reinstate him. McCall resigned his military commission and his duties as barracks master and store keeper in 1815. He remained city jailer until 1823.

In addition to his military service, McCall is probably most well-known for writing one of the first books on the history of Georgia. The History of Georgia was published in two volumes. Volume One came out in 1811 followed by the second part in 1816. It is possible he wrote his book from his house in Brown Ward, Lot 53, which is located today roughly on 24 E. Liberty Street. It’s also possible he wrote it when he had free time serving as the City Jailor,

The American penal system in the early nineteenth century was undergoing a transformation. In the Northeast there was a shift from colonial attitudes of jails being holding cells for people awaiting punishment to being houses of reform. Like most of the South, Georgia, however, did not embrace these radical reform ideas as quickly as they did in the Northeast. This did not mean that Savannah was not moving away from British colonial ideas. One subtle change that signaled a shift from a British penal system to a new American mind-set is the change from the spelling in the Savannah newspapers of the word jail. Prior to the 1820s the word is almost always spelled the way the British spell it, “gaol”. However by the 1830s the word is primarily spelled the American way, “jail”.

Regardless of how it was spelled, the facility in Savannah that McCall ran was not a pleasant place. The jail was located on the trust lot on the Southwest corner of Lafayette...
Square, where the Andrew Low House is now. It was a two story, wooden structure. William Grimes, a runaway slave who later wrote a book about the trials he suffered gaining his freedom, spent some time in the jail in 1815 and said it was “foul and full of vermin.” Though the prison was a rough and uncomfortable place, the job of city jailer in the early 1800s was not hard labor, instead it appears to have been heavily administrative. McCall’s job included putting advertisements in the newspapers. These notices informed the community about events going on. An advertisement he placed in October 1822 informed citizens that there was space available in the old barracks for people looking to escape the yellow fever outbreak. The city would feed and house residents.

Another primary part of Hugh’s job was placing advertisements in the paper for missing enslaved workers as well as holding those slaves who had been located. It was not only recaptured runaway slaves that were held in the jail. If an owner was going out of town and did not wish to take his bondspeople along, he or she could house them in the city jail.

Likewise, if an owner felt his slaves needed to be punished but did not want to do it, he or she could send them to the city jail and the jailer would handle it. It appears this is what Grimes’ owner did. Grimes tells of how, “the constable” (Presumably McCall) advised Grimes’ owner not to have Grimes whipped again. We know that by the 1850s Savannah prisons were brutal places. There are accounts that one could hear the screams of slaves being whipped from down the street. But 1820s prison might have been a bit more lenient, particularly if McCall was expected to actually be the one performing the punishments. That is because he was “a bad cripple.”

McCall was disabled. In 1815 a sailor called T. S. Woodward left his ship without permission, was arrested, and put in jail. In his memoir, he says that Hugh McCall was “a bad cripple, unable to walk and had to go over the floor in a little wagon contracted for that purpose. A big negro man to carry him from one floor to another.” It is not known what ailment McCall suffered from. It has been suggested that he had war wounds, but that is not likely. McCall came from a fiercely patriotic family. If he had been wounded in war, as his father had been, it is probable that this information would have been more widely discussed. Another reason it is likely not a war wound is that in a later edition of McCall’s History of Georgia, the introduction, written by Thomas McCall, refers to Hugh’s “illness” not his injuries. Whatever McCall was ailing from was very painful and he suffered for about 20 years with the condition. This pain did not deter him from working or living his life. That’s because he had his bondspeople to take care of him.

There is a letter in the collection of the Morgan Library in New York City addressed to McCall from a woman named Sussana Rowson thanking him and his wife for looking after her brother while he was dying. It is possible that Rowson never actually met McCall and just assumed he was married, or perhaps she confused Hugh with his brother Thomas, who also lived in Savannah and did have a wife. But it is generally believed the Hugh McCall never married or had children. Though he never had a family of his own, McCall was not alone. He shared his life with his six bondspeople - Cato McDonald, Coffee Farley, the mulatto Suzette and her infant, and Sophia and Suzette’s children. It is likely that McDonald is the “negro man” mentioned as carrying McCall around. Following McCall’s death, an inventory of his estate, which was made by Isaiah Davenport, lists Coffee Farley as being worth $350 dollars and McDonald only $300 but in McCall’s will, it is McDonald who receives the most attention.

Hugh McCall died of “decline” on June 10, 1824. In his will, his very first bequest is that he leaves all his bondspeople to the Union Society.
with the stipulation that they each pay a dollar a year to the society and that they never do a day of work again. The Union Society was a social welfare organization whose primary responsibility was raising funds for the Bethesda Home and reforming wayward boys. Savannah in the 1820s was full of adversity. The great fire of 1820 and numerous yellow fever outbreaks took its toll on the financial security of Savannah’s citizens. As a result the Union Society was struggling to stay solvent. It is possible that McCall made a contribution to the Society that would allow him to work around the manumission laws of the time. These laws forbade the freeing of slaves in wills and would nullify any bequest that included the liberation of the enslaved. Despite this, McCall clearly hoped he could circumvent the system.

In addition to leaving his bondspeople to the Union Society, McCall left McDonald $500 and ten shares in the Planters Bank. McCall said these shares were purchased for McDonald with McDonald’s money but in McCall’s name. He left his other five enslaved workers, including the women, $300 each. McCall also owned shares in Planters Bank and left them to his brother along with some stocks and other items. He left an additional sum of money to his still-living sisters. It is his bondspeople, however, that stood to inherit the bulk of McCall’s estate. This is very telling of the relationship he had with them and must have made for an interesting dynamic when the “master” was fully dependent on the people he was supposed to be “mastering” over. This unusual circumstance was probably not just contained in private between McCall and his bondspeople. Presumably McCall came to visit the Davenport family and likely other friends as well. It is interesting to imagine what impact the relationship between McCall and McDonald might have had in the Davenports’ household particularly among their enslaved workers. Did McDonald enter the front door of the house if he was carrying McCall or did McCall have to go around the back? Did McDonald’s personal relationship with McCall elevate or alienate him with other enslaved people? It is clear that McCall intended to emancipate his bondspeople. Regrettfully, this did not occur. The executors of the estate chose not to comply with McCall’s wishes. Though Davenport helped take the inventory of McCall’s house, Philip Brasch and Thomas McCall were named as executors of Hugh’s estate. The elder McCall and Brasch decided to contest the will. This was because laws at the time forbade the manumission of slaves through wills. Only an act of Congress could free someone. Any will attempting to liberate enslaved workers would be not be entered into the record and therefore would not be valid. Since McCall left part of his estate to his brother and sisters, if the will was not validated, they would not receive anything.

The final fate of Hugh McCall’s bondspeople remains unknown. Brasch owned a bakery on Broughton Street. When he died the year after McCall, in 1825, his estate records show that he had been paying rent to Thomas McCall for McDonald, so McDonald stays in Savannah at least a year after Hugh dies. On Thomas McCall’s 1832 tax records, it shows that he is paying tax on his brother’s bondspeople. It is possible Thomas moved them to his house, Retreat, in Laurens County Georgia.

Hugh McCall was interred in Colonial Park Cemetery. A historical marker put up in the 1950s mentions his time in the military and his book as his greatest achievements. While these are significant contributions to the history of Georgia, it is the second paragraph of the epitaph on his tombstone that really encapsulates what those who cared about him thought he should be remembered for. “He served the U.S. in various capacities 30 years, the last 20 years under severe bodily suffering but with usefulness to himself, his country and his friends.”

Jennifer McCarthy graduated from GSU-Armstrong Campus in June with a Master’s of Art degree in Public History. She used Hugh McCall as the basis of her final project and delivered a program on him to DH docents in July. The above is a brief biographical sketch from her longer work. The DH is delighted to have original research to share with you.

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.
In February 1963 as the Museum was just getting started, the DH was given a priceless gift by Mr. & Mrs. Henry Rootes Jackson Drew. As you might surmise, Mr. Drew was our Cornelia’s great-great-grandson. The gift was a personal item of Cornelia’s, a scrapbook given to her by her mother when she went off to Hartford Female Seminary to attend school. According to records at the Connecticut Historical Society, Cornelia was a student there for the 1839 and 1840 sessions. “Aside from the regular course of study, drawing, music, French, and, in 1840, Spanish courses were also an option. There were two terms of twenty-two weeks in the year.”

Cornelia would have been 15 and 16 years old during her time there and her album contains poetry, some of it composed by her friends, dried flowers and leaves as remembrances of special times, hair samples of family and friends (who knew that her brother Archie was a ginger?), calling cards from gentlemen callers (including a young officer from the Royal Navy), music sheets, and notes. All in all, the album is a revealing portrait of a fun-loving and well-liked teenage girl. Why then, you may ask, has this wonderful artifact never been displayed?

The scrapbook was in pretty poor condition even when it was first given to the Museum. It wasn’t just time alone that had taken its toll. The contents themselves – the botanicals, the inks, the organic material – all added to the deterioration making the volume extremely fragile. For this reason, the volume was put into a box and stored until the proper care and treatment could be decided upon. Fast forward to the year 2000. The book had been forgotten. Then in February, Dottie Kraft, the then volunteer coordinator, found the book being used as a support for the VCR in the training room! Her discovery rescued the album and sparked a flurry of new activity to determine how best to treat it.

The current museum director contacted the American Institute of Conservators for the names of experts in the field of paper conservation. In April of that year, one of the Davenport Museum’s stalwart supporters, Clare Ellis, took the diary to the Georgia Archives in Atlanta where she consulted with Hillary Kaplan about possible conservators and the best way to preserve and care for the document.

No further action was taken, however, possibly due to the high cost of such a project. The contents were recorded and documented and this time the item was wrapped in acid-free tissue paper and placed in a lignin-free and acid free cardboard box to retard further deterioration.

Then last year, we were graced with the services of a very skilled and thorough archivist who volunteered here at the DH. Sherry Cortes spent a great deal of time reviewing and organizing our documents and records and then painstakingly recording the data into our archival database. When I showed her Cornelia’s diary, she fell in love with it. When she realized we had no immediate plans for the volume, she mentioned that she had connections with the Northeast Document Conservation Center in Massachusetts, one of the premier conservation organizations in the country. That was the nudge we needed to get the ball rolling. Sherry notified her contact at the NEDCC who then reached out to us. She told us that they would be willing to provide us with a free evaluation of the book’s condition along with recommendations as to its conservation. She added that they would also send a representative to the Museum to help us pack the volume for shipment. We agreed to their offer and in February, Cornelia’s album returned to New England for the first time in 178 years.

The evaluation process took only a month and the list of defects was long. Their recommendation were as follows:
- Provide written and photographic documentation before and after treatment
- Surface clean pages to reduce surface dirt.
- Disbind (remove sewing and separate the sections)
- Mend tears and guard folds as necessary using Japanese paper and starch paste.
- Reassemble text and gently press to reduce swell.
- Sew text block with linen thread.
- Repair binding by rebacking using leather. Stabilize and strengthen corners.
- Place loose items in folds of buffered paper and add buffered interleaving between pages where necessary.
- Construct a custom-fitted MicroClimate box to dimensions of volume.

The price tag for this treatment was considerable - $10,000 - but Jamie and I agreed that the album itself was irreplaceable and that the preservation of such an intimate and important artifact so closely connected with the Davenport House was paramount. The Davenport House Committee and the Endowment Committee both agreed and consent was given to the NEDCC to proceed with their recommendations.

In May, Cornelia’s album returned home, beautifully restored and stabilized with a custom made box to help keep it safe for years to come. The NEDCC’s final recommendation was this – “The volume and its contents will remain fragile following conservation. Access should be provided digitally and use and handling of the original should be limited.” Thus, the bad news is that Cornelia’s actual album will still be rarely seen; however, the good news is that we now have beautiful digital images that allow us to view each page in detail as often as we like and now more people will have the opportunity to get to know our Cornelia.

Notes:
2. Notes from the accession file 1963.08.02, Davenport House Museum. No date or author listed.
Many important and committed DHers rolled off leadership committees recently. These include Diane Kaufman, Jan Vach, Nancy White and Brooke Wilford on the DH Committee and Marsha Moore, Rick Muller and Holden Hayes on the DH Endowment Directors. They served the Museum well and we continue to need them and know they will share their expertise and energy.

These are our new leaders:

**DH Committee - REBECCA BUSTINDUY:**
**Home town?** San Francisco, CA / Lived in NYC for a while in college while interning at a magazine / Moved to Savannah for Grad School and just never left
**Ed./College?** - University of California, Davis / Undergrad / Communications and Art History - SCAD /Masters/ Historic Preservation
**Profession/working career?** - Tour Coordinator DH - Owner, Peaches Children’s Shoppe / A premium e-retailer offering a fresh take on classic children's clothing, gifts and decor

**Other volunteer services?** - If only there were more hours in a day...

**What do you like about the Davenport House?** - The people, hands down.

**What do you hope the future holds for the DH?** - To bring the DH alive to visitors. Personally, to develop an agenda that returns me to the most enjoyable part of being a professor: research in archives and in buildings. I can’t wait to see what gets uncovered in the Lower Level project.

**DH Committee - NANCY HUBBARD**
**Hometown?** Chicago, IL
**Education?** BA University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign; PhD Northwestern University. Evanston, IL
**Profession?** Professor, Architecture/Architectural History, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Architecture and the School of The Art Institute of Chicago

**Volunteer activities?** Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois Board of Directors; Frank Lloyd Wright Heritage Tourism Program Board of Directors, Wisconsin Trust for Historic Preservation Board of Directors, Historic Milwaukee, Inc. Board of Directors, State of Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board Member

**What I like about DH?** The people, visitors, volunteers, and staff! Personally, I enjoy the opportunity to use my background in architecture, history, and preservation to increase awareness of our past through experiencing the Davenport House.

**My goals for working at DH?** To bring the DH alive to visitors. Personally, to develop an agenda that returns me to the most enjoyable part of being a professor: research in archives and in buildings. I can’t wait to see what gets uncovered in the Lower Level project.

**DH Committee - KATHRYN MURPH**
**Home town?** Savannah but also lived in Atlanta and Houston
**Ed./College?** 2 years University of Houston then completed at Georgia Southern BS Psychology
**Profession?** @ ABR Digital Office Solutions for 28 years; President since 2010

**Other volunteer service?** Asbury Memorial UMC, Savannah Chatham Citizens Advocacy, Downtown Garden Club

**What do you like about the Davenport House?** The Contrast between the “public” area construction and the private living area construction.

**What do you hope the future holds for the DH?** Continue to educate people where we came from and how we have improved.
nah?  Macon, GA, Valdosta, GA, Asheville, NC.

Ed./College?  English, Theatre, and Education from Mercer University.

Profession/working career?  Restaurants - BowTie Barbecue Co., Beauregard's Chariot; a BowTie Barbecue Foodtruck

Other volunteer service?  This! What do you like about the Davenport House?  The history and architecture! And the garden... the garden is beautiful and full of potential!

What do you hope the future holds for the DH?  Growth in both influence and understanding. I fear that lot of Savannah's history is lost amongst the folks who live here. I would love to see our outreach efforts bring in a whole new group who are interested in what all has taken place here in Savannah for the last 200 years!

Anything else you would like to share?  I’m very excited to be a part of the team. I, too, have so much to learn about Savannah still (and I’ve lived here on and off for 30 years!). But as I continue on the Board, I hope I can contribute and help make a difference. Cheers!

DH Committee—
Deb Walsh:
Home town?  Where have lived other than Savannah?  Grand Rapids, Michigan

Ed./College?  Bachelor’s in Communications and a Master’s in Business Management

Profession/working career?  International Marketing manager for Amway Corporation (30 years)

Other volunteer service?  Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park (10 years), Equest Center for Therapeutic Riding – Horseback riding for people with disabilities (two years)

What do you like about the Davenport House?  The DH family who is passionate about telling an authentic and complete American story of the Davenport family and those who were enslaved by the Davenports

What do you hope the future holds for the DH?  To become a recognized leader in developing and interpreting the house in the context stated above.

DH Committee - JAN WILL
Hometown/Places you have lived?  Born Toledo, Ohio. Hated the long, cold, dreary winters. - lived in Ohio, California, and Georgia (Tybee Island)

Education?  Earned teaching degree and moved to warm weather; - Degrees, Elem Education, Administration, Counseling, School Psychology

Profession?  Taught 1st and 2nd grades, but most career was as School Psychologist

Other interests?  Loved to travel (Iceland, Russia, China, Costa Rica, Morocco, Africa, and more)

Other volunteer service?  Tybee Post Theater, Lighthouse, and Historic Preservation Commission, Chair (guidelines and standards for Tybee. Trying to stop demolition of houses over 50 years old)

What do you like about the Davenport House?  Like DH because it “feels good” as soon as you walk in front door.

What do you hope the future holds for the DH?  Future of DH is exciting. The expansion is awesome. Can’t wait for things to start.

DH Committee - Colleen Willoughby
Home town?  Savannah, GA
Where have lived other than Savannah?  Athens, GA and New Orleans, LA

Ed./College?  B.A. History from UGA, Masters Preservations Studies from Tulane School of Architecture

Profession/working career?  Historic Preservation Associate with Ward Architecture + Preservation

Other service?  Youth Director at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church (not really volunteer since it provides housing)

What do you like about the Davenport House?  I love the varied calendar of events and programs. Architecturally, I really like the front steps

What do you hope the future holds for the DH?  Lots of wonderful visitors and a restored basement!

DH Endowment Director - ADAM CARACCI
Home town?  Where have lived other than Savannah?  I was born in Savannah and lived here until I moved to Atlanta in 2009. I returned to Savannah in 2017.

Education/College?  I received a Bachelor’s of Science in Civil Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta.

Profession/working career?  I am the Construction Project Manager for Parker’s. My position includes permitting, designing, and building new Parker’s stores throughout the Low Country.

Other volunteer service?  I also volunteer with my fraternity, both nationally and at the chapter level. I serve as a facilitator annually at our leadership academies. I also help my local chapter by serving as a steering committee member for our capital campaign.

What do you like about the Davenport House?  The Davenport House is my second family. It has been an integral part in shaping who I am. It has given me an appreciation for preservation, history, and culture.

What do you hope the future holds for the DH?  I am very excited to see the continued preservation and interpretation of other areas of the House. I am optimistic that we have a bright future by continuing to grow the exhibit.

DH Endowment Director - CONNIE MCCAY
Hometown?  Born and reared in the Acadiana area of Southwest Louisiana.

Education?  M.Ed. from University of Louisiana, Lafayette and received a Management Development Certificate, Business from University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

Profession?  Educator/Special Education - Educational Consultant. Taught Educational Foundations in College of Education, Uni-
versity of Louisiana, Lafayette. Public Relations Coordinator of Head Start Program in nine parish area. Affiliated with law firms in the Southeast and Midwest in various administrative management positions as Director of Recruitment, Associate and Paralegal Advisor, Manager – Paralegals and Staff Recruiting, Manager of Legal Recruiting and Director of Recruitment, Associate and Paralegal Advisor. Retired after 18 years in the financial industry after serving in several capacities such as Financial Associate, Branch Systems Administrator and Operations Manager.

**Other volunteer activities?** Savannah Scottish Games, Garden Club of Savannah and Gordonston Garden Club, St. John’s Episcopal Church activities, Scottish Coastal Heritage Society, Navy League of the United States – Savannah Council

**DH Endowment Director - WILLIAM PINSON**

**Hometown?** I was born and raised in Newnan, Georgia. Other than university, I lived in Indianapolis for a military obligation. We moved to Savannah in 1973, and have been here since.

**Education?** I was awarded a BA degree in history from Mercer University and a JD degree from Mercer's law school.

**Profession?** I was a civil trial lawyer for forty years in Savannah and the coastal area. The majority of my practice was devoted to defending healthcare professionals accused of medical negligence.

**Volunteer service?** I have performed volunteer work with both local and state bar associations, the homeless shelter, and several assisted living homes. I have served as elder, clerk of session, and adult bible teacher at Independent Church, and White Bluff Presbyterian Church.

**What do you like about the Davenport House?** I like the contribution to Savannah's history by the Davenport House, and I appreciate its tremendous contribution to historic preservation.

**What do you hope for the future of the DH?** I hope the future will bring a greater awareness of the Davenport House, and that we will see continued improvement to both it and the pharmacy.

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**Finding our voice!**

**Davenport Concert Series—partnership with Savannah Voice Festival**

To the left: Winter Melodies and Crystal Dreams concert at the DH (in the Kennedy Pharmacy) on December 2.

From the wings, we listened to magnificently trained voices with Savannah Voice Festival as the internationally renown baritone Sherrill Milnes read from Robert Frost.

The DH has found a wonderful creative partner in the Savannah Voice Festival which is staging seasonal concerts at the Museum this year in the Davenport Concert Series. Seating remains for the spring and summer concerts which will take place in the DH Drawing Room. Of the series SVF Executive Director Maria Zouves says, “The relationship with the Davenport House anchors the Festival which provides vocal performances throughout the year though our primary season is in August.” DH staff is equally enthusiastic about the partnership, “How incredible to have artists with the SVF, who are mostly young, up-and-coming opera stars, performing in our spaces! To hear trained, operatic voices presenting beautiful music is incredible. And, both institutions benefit for sharing the proceeds and sharing the exposure,” offers Jamie Credle, museum director.

**Concerts Scheduled at the DH:**

**Spring Songs and Blooming Flowers**

**PROGRAM DATE:** Monday, March 11. **TIMES:** 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

**Summer Love Songs**

**PROGRAM DATE:** Tuesday, June 4. **TIMES:** 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The length of these concerts is approximately one hour and they are followed by refreshments and an opportunity to meet the performers. Seats may be purchased through the SVF and DH websites. Call 912-236-8097 for information.


2019 Davenport House Museum Winter and Spring Programs, Events and Dates to Know

DH CLOSED FOR ANNUAL CLEANING
DATES: January 20—22, 2019

ART SHOW: BETWEEN—LANES OF SAVANNAH. WORK OF SANDRA ATTALES
DATE: Friday, January 18
TIME: 5 to 8 p.m.
LOCATION: Gallery at Austen Hill Realty, 417 Whitaker Street

KENDRA GIVES BACK
DATE: Saturday, January 19
TIME: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
LOCATION: Kendra Scott (Jewelry store), 311 W. Broughton Street

ADDITIONALLY: DH benefits from jewelry sales during the time period.

SUPER MUSEUM SUNDAY
DATE: Sunday, February 10
TIME: 12 noon until 4 p.m.
As a community museum free day, the DH is open free of charge.

“POTABLE GOLD”: SAVANNAH’S MADEIRA TRADITION
Friday and Saturday evenings in February 2019

PROGRAM DATES: February 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23
An extra presentation will be presented at 7:30 p.m.
if the 5:30 p.m. session sells-out on February 15, 16, 22, 23.
TIME: 5:30 p.m.
ADMISSION: $20 (must be 21 years of age). Plus tax.
Reservations recommended. Limited attendance.
LENGTH OF PROGRAM: 75 minutes
Experience the historic atmosphere of the Davenport House while learning about and tasting a unique and flavorful wine. The performance requires that guests be able to walk up and down stairs and maneuver in the candlelit rooms.

VALENTINE’S DAY WEDDINGS IN THE DAVENPORT HOUSE GARDEN
Thursday, February 14, 2019
Times: 10 minutes increments from 5 to 7 p.m.
DONATION: $100
Get married in the Museum’s beautiful courtyard garden and make it a Valentine’s Day to remember! Ceremonies will be offered every 10 minutes. Confirmed reservations are highly recommended.

TEA AT MRS. DAVENPORT’S
Thursday and Fridays in March 2019

PROGRAM DATES AND TIMES: March 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29 at 5 p.m.
Reservations recommended. Limited attendance.
LENGTH OF PROGRAM: 60 to 75 minutes.
Learn about tea traditions and experience an early 19th century tea in the historic atmosphere of the Davenport House Museum. Patrons will tour areas of the historic home where tea service took place and will participate in an afternoon tea with costumed interpreters. The performance requires that guests be able to walk up and down stairs.

DAVENPORT HOUSE CONCERT SERIES: Spring Songs and Blooming Flowers
PROGRAM DATE: Monday, March 11
TIMES: 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.
ADMISSION: $35. Purchase tickets through SavannahVoiceFestival.org or DavenportHouseMuseum.org.
LENGTH OF PROGRAM: 1 hour

EARLY BIRD’S WALKING TOUR:
DISCOVERING 1820S SAVANNAH
Saturdays in May 2019

PROGRAM DATES: May 4, 11, 18 and 25
TIME: 8 a.m.
LENGTH OF PROGRAM: 120 minutes
DISTANCE OF WALK: 2.5 miles.
See what survives of the 1820s Savannah that master builder Isaiah Davenport knew. Coffee and treats in the Davenport House garden will follow.

DAVENPORT HOUSE CONCERT SERIES: Summer Love Songs
PROGRAM DATE: Tuesday, June 4
TIMES: 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.
ADMISSION: $35. Purchase tickets through SavannahVoiceFestival.org or DavenportHouseMuseum.org.
LENGTH OF PROGRAM: 1 hour

Ongoing: DAVENPORT HOUSE DANCERS
DATES: Most Wednesday afternoons
TIME: 5 to 6 p.m.
Volunteers gather to rehearse and teach each other early 19th century social dances.

Reservations recommended. Limited attendance.
LENGTH OF PROGRAM: 60 to 75 minutes.
Learn about tea traditions and experience an early 19th century tea in Davenport House’s beautiful courtyard garden.

On inclement weather dates, tea will be taken inside the house museum in a delightful fashion.
The performance requires that guests be able to walk up and down stairs.

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DAVENPORT HOUSE MUSEUM
EXTENDS OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION AND THANKS
TO ALL OF OUR PATRONS AND SPONSORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT

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MALCOLM & JULIA BUTLER
TO THE MEMORY OF BETTY STANLEY BUTLER

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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 Wardens  ☐ $1000—McKinnon Circle

Every dollar counts! Donations are tax deductible.

Renewal: _________  First time member: _________  Additional Gift: _________

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Name: __________________________ Phone #: __________________________
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Make check payable to Friends of the Davenport House or charge by credit card:

Visa  MasterCard  AmEx  Discover (circle) - Donation Amount to Charge: _________
Account Number: __________________________ Expiration Date: ___________
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Signature: ________________________________

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

Wishing you happy times and the comforts of loved ones near this holiday season. Happy New Year from your friends at the Davenport House.

Remember the Davenport House Shop for holiday gifts.