



Davenport House Museum Volunteer Newsletter

January 2021

www.davenporthousemuseum.org

912/236-8097

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Fifty Dollars Reward.

The above reward will be paid for the apprehension of DAVID LITTLE, alias DAVID WOOD, a shoe-maker by trade, about five feet ten inches high, dark complexion, blue eyes and black hair; had on when he absconded a short blue, roundabout coat, blue waistcoat, blue pantaloons; speaks French and English, and had lost some of fore teeth. The said David Little alias Wood, on the 8th inst broke open and robbed the trunk of the subscriber of two hundred Dollars in Silver and American gold. The above reward will be paid for the apprehension of the thief and money, or twenty-five for the recovery of the money.

Wm. M. Ryan.

The Georgian. January 6, 1821.

11th January 1820.

What a pleasing sensation must it be to those who were present at that awful and desolating calamity, which at that time seemed to destroy not only the property but the hopes of many who were its victims, that in one short year, Savannah should present a scene of beauty in the structure of its buildings, which was, before that time, scarcely known. A stranger would hardly believe on viewing this city, that so many superb edifices could have been erected in the time, and certainly not when he took into consideration the ravages of the late pestilential disease with which we were visited, in which not less than one thousand persons were consigned to the dust, most of them young and hardy mechanics who were engaged in their vocation in erecting

those buildings. Hardly a vestige of that terrible conflagration now remains by which it can be traced; and should the



Almighty Director of Event shield us for one year from the like ravages, Savannah will present an appearance of which its citizens may justly boast.

The Georgian. January 11, 1821.

Found

In a counting house, a Basket containing Curls, Artificial Flowers, &c. supposed to have been left during the fire in January last. – Also, a large heart Cake, iced, the latter has met with considerable damage



from the rats. Apply at this office.

The Georgian. January 13, 1821.

Twenty Dollar Reward.

Ranaway from the subscriber on the 13th inst., a negro fellow named PHYTER, five ten or eleven inches high, 42 years old, dark complected, had on coat and pantaloons of a purple color; he is a very artful fellow, with a fair speech. Perhaps he may have a pass to bear himself on board of a boat, as he has followed the river for upwards of 20 years; he has a sister living near Ebenezer, and other relatives in Savannah, and it is expected he will be lurking about one of these places. Owners of boats and patroons are cautioned against employing or harboring him. The above reward will be given if brought home and all reasonable expenses paid; or Ten Dollars if lodged in Savannah jail, or any other, so that I get him again, and information given to the subscriber in Edgefield District, (S.C.) near Beach Island.

JOHN STARR, sen.

The Georgian. January 18, 1821.

COTTON MANUFACTURE

The English first imported cotton wool about the beginning of the fifteenth century from the Levant. The quantity appears for a long time to have been

extremely small. There is no authentic account of any manufacture of this article till nearly the middle of the 17th century at which time, the mode of spinning was by the hand on a one thread wheel, whereby a person could with difficulty produce a pound of thread by close and diligent application the whole day.

The spinning jenny was invented in 1767, by James Hargreaves of Lancashire, near Blackburn. In 1770 the celebrated invention of Arkwright, (that of spinning by means of rollers) was first tried in a mill which was worked by horses, but this being found too expensive, a mill was soon after erected, the machinery of which was put in motion by water.

The Quantity of cotton wool manufactured in 1781 is estimated at about 5,000,000 lb.

In 1787 -- 22,500,000 "

In 1819 – 140,000,000 "

The imports of cotton into Great Britain, during the first eight months of the present year were from the United States, something over 280,000 bags.



The Georgian. January 24, 1821.

DAVENPORT HOUSE CALENDAR

January 2021

Friday, January 1 – *Happy New Year* – Museum Closed

Tuesday, January 5 through January 31 – New Open Schedule – Weekdays by Appointment with Volunteer Docents on Call; Weekends Open Normal Hours

Thursday, January 7 at 6 p.m. – Junior Interpreter meeting via Zoom

Tuesday, January 12 at 1 p.m. – Clothing and Costume Conversa-

tion with Jamie and Katherine Keena via Zoom

Thursday, January 14 at 1 p.m. – American Architecture Class/ Session 1 (with Dr. Nancy Hubbard) via Zoom

Friday, January 15 at 4 p.m. – Garden Rental

Tuesday, January 19 at 11 a.m. – Davenport House Committee

Thursday, January 21 at 1 p.m. – American Architecture Class/ Session 2 (with Dr. Nancy Hubbard) via Zoom

Tuesday, January 26 at 1 p.m. – The Antebellum Kitchen with Jamie and Katherine Keena via Zoom

Wednesday, January 27 – HSF Executive Committee meeting and Full Board Meeting

Thursday, January 28 at 1 p.m. – American Architecture Class/ Session 3 (with Dr. Nancy Hubbard) via Zoom

GETTING THROUGH COVID-19

NOTE AMENDED HOURS FOR JANUARY 2021:

New Year's Day Holiday: The Museum will be closed Friday, January 1.

The Museum will be open its regular hours Saturday, January 2, Sunday, January 3, and Monday, January 4.

The Davenport House Museum will have altered hours for January 2021 beginning January 5.

- **Weekdays by appointment.** From January 5 through 31: Weekday tours will be by appointment only. It is best to book 24 hours in advance for a tour between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Tour times will be based on the availability of a

tour guide.

- **Weekends regular hours.** Regular hours are: Saturday—The first tour begins at 10 a.m. and the last one begins at 4 p.m. with tours every half hour. Sunday—The first tour begins at 1 p.m. and the last one begins at 4 p.m.. Tour groups are limited to 10 persons maximum.

To arrange a tour experience, please call 912-236-8097.

An evaluation will be conducted in late January to decide the tour schedule for February. It will be posted as soon as a determination is made.

Keeping Our Brains Fresh!

A COURSE FOR US!

AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE.

Nancy Hubbard has generously offered to teach docents, JI and Friends of the DH an *American Architecture* class via Zoom.

Those attending will gather by their computers (or phones) beginning January 14 and every Thursday for the next five weeks from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. Let Jamie or Sheena know if this interests you.

About Nancy: She is a retired professor of architecture and historic preservation. Her education includes University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Degrees: Ph.D., Northwestern University, 1984; B.A., University of Illinois-Urbana, 1968.

She has been involved with the DH since attending a Madeira program in 2018. She trained to be a docent.

CONVERSATIONS WITH JAMIE CREDLE AND KATHERINE KEENA

On Tuesdays, January 14 and 28 at 1

p.m. they will talk about topics relevant to the DH's interpretation.

1/14 - **Early 19th Century Clothing and Apparel**

1/28 - **The Antebellum Kitchen.**

The beginning will be a PowerPoint followed by an extemporaneous discussion. The Zoom link will be sent out to docents and JIs.

SHOP NEWS:

- Thank you for the holiday sales.
- **Gaye:** After being unwell for much of December, Gaye is back at her desk.

DOCENT NEWS:

- Docent training will be held in February. Please let your friends and acquaintances know of this opportunity. Let Sheena or Jamie know names and contact information.

JI NEWS:

- **January meeting:** JIs will gather on Thursday, January 7 at 6 p.m. for the first monthly meeting of the calendar year.
- Thank you to all the JIs who helped with tours and special programs in December.

MAINTENANCE/PRESERVATION

- **Annual Cleaning:** Raleigh Marcell will conduct annual cleaning around the closing schedule in January.

REFLECTIONS ON THE HOLIDAY

SEASON:

- **LIGHTS AND SIGHTS TOURS: So Proud of You!** On twenty-eight evenings, November 27 through December 24, we put on a show for **Old Town Trolley** patrons during a pandemic! It involved staff



and extra precautions this year. The DH saw the partnership through! Thank you to Grant Baxter, Ava Burr, Gracen Belin. Isa Davis, Lewis Denson, Gena Fausel, Sherry Hines, Ed Flanagan, Linda Flanagan, Cailyn Kurdys, John Leonti, Robin Leske, Emma Madsen, Carole Massey, Dan Massey, Karen Menatti, Gayle Mongrandi, Danielle Oke, Madeleine Pelli, Madison Roarke, Lizzie Rogers, Tiana Ruden, Maria Sanchez, Roger Smith, Fallin Swan, Deb Walsh, and Jill Wert. Our staff is commended – Jeff Freeman, Sheena Fulkerson, Gaye Kurmas and Raleigh Marcell - for being on top of this program. And, certainly, thank you to **Old Town Trolley** for bringing the Museum over 2,500 visitors.

- **Holiday Evening Tours by Candlelight:** This year's after-Christmas program was also altered for the pandemic. Though we did not hold hands and sing *Auld Lang Syne*, it was a festive, safe and an interesting good time. Thank you to all who made it work – both staff and volunteers. **Gift Shop/House Managers:** Rachel Hickman and Tiana Ruden. **Musicians:** Bella Harmony – Audrey Allgaier and Joe Flanders (who performed outside in the cold); **Trumpeter:** Isa Davis; **Singers:** Liana Mosley and Christian Cullen, who unexpectedly appeared and asked to perform; **Docents:** Gracen Belin, Kathy Conroy, Elise Cookson, Lewis Denson, Gena Fausel, Robin Leske, Meredith Sneed, Sarah Kate Maher, Madison Kennedy Lizzie Rogers; Costumed performers: Jeff Freeman, Jody Leyva, Raleigh Marcell, Jan Vach. **Museum House & KP Prep:** Raleigh Marcell

- **Holiday Goodies** – DH people were (are) grateful for the treats, cards, and good wishes extended

during the holiday season.

- **Friends newsletter** – In the midst of the December rush, we found time to put out a **Friends of the Davenport House** newsletter.

Thank you to Emma Madsen, Kelsi Nicholson, Fallin Swan– for preparing the mailing.

- **2020-2021 Annual Giving Campaign:** Friends were generous to the DH during the holiday season with 123 patrons donating to the Friends of Davenport House since the mailing of our appeal in October. If you have not made a donation, please know it is needed and would be appreciated. Thank you to Marty Barnes and Bob Prettyman for proofreading (the newsletter and everything else).



WORTH MENTIONING:

- **Groundbreaking:** There was a groundbreaking ceremony on Wednesday, December 2 for the Kennedy Pharmacy/DH Expansion. Our colleagues at HSF put on safe, informative event to let the community know about the good work taking place. Construction begins!

- **Non-Party:** Thank you to Christopher Hendricks for signing books and to SAA JIs who served at our

non-Holiday party and cookbook signing on December 6.



- **Publicity in December:** The DH received much beautiful publicity in December. Thank you to Lesley Frances PR as well as Sarah Stone at WTOC, Bunny Ware, Connect Savannah, Savannah Morning News, Savannah Master Calendar, etc.

- **Preston Russell:** Recently artist/physician/historian Preston Russell has moved to the Atlanta area. In breaking up housekeeping, he donated to the Davenport House cases of his books for resale to benefit the Museum. Lovely donation!

- **Nigerian Air Force:** On December 19 30 cadets with the Nigerian Air Force visited the DH under escort with US military officials. John Leonti, Gayle Mongrandi and Lizzie Rogers delivered tours to the receptive group.



- **Programs for the Winter and Spring:** The DH will make decisions about winter and spring programs as 2021 progresses. We would like to be able to offer **Valentine's Day Weddings**, an adapted version of *Potable Gold: Savannah's Madeira Tradition* (February) and *Tea in the Garden* (March). All are under review.



DOCENT SPOTLIGHT:

Fallin Swan

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

Fallin: I signed up to do the fall program through Mr. Johnson’s APUSH class and I did actually get picked, but as an alternate. So instead, I trained over the summer with a group of 4 other girls.

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

Fallin: When I’m not doing homework, which is rare, I like to ride my bike around to look at cool houses and spend time with my friends whenever possible. I also like watching movies, I am a film (technically communications) major after all.

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

Fallin: I’m sure it’s been said before, but the people here are wonderful. There’s such a wide variety of people who all happen to care about history in some way or another. It seems like there is a culture of comradery and kindness at the DH.

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

Fallin: I had 2 groups I was touring have a little argument with each other.

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

Fallin: I was born here, and I’ve been here since then.

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

Fallin: I could walk around down-

town for hours just to see what I can find. One time, my friend and I stumbled across a house with an amazing garden that poured from the porch onto the sidewalk. While we were admiring the garden, the owner of the house introduced herself and told us about how much her husband loved keeping up the garden, despite the city not wanting the plants on the sidewalk.

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

Fallin: I’d like to do something in government or politics, I’m not entirely sure what yet. Whatever I end up doing, I hope I make a positive impact and wake up each day excited to do it.



During the month of December 2020, the Davenport House Museum saw visitors from California, Florida, Indiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, South Carolina, Washington, DC, Washington,

MEDICAL TALK – 1821-STYLE:

Kine Pox. – By a report of the National Vaccine Establishment in England, it appears that the number of persons inoculated the last year in the city of London was 8,957, and in other parts of the kingdom, 74,940.

The report likewise says: – “The career of vaccination appears however to

have been less brilliant in its native country, than in some parts of the continent of Europe, where the practice of it is enforced by legal enactments, and inoculation for smallpox is prohibited [sic] by severe penalties. Under such regulations, it is affirmed, that the smallpox has ceased to exist in Denmark for the last eight years and that the knowledge of the fact has not induced his Danish Majesty to proclaim the same decrees in his West India colonies.

“The Board are also informed, by a most interesting communication from Dr. De Corro of Vienna, that similar decrees have been published in the Austrian dominions, and that smallpox is now confined to that portion of the poor who by concealment contrive to evade the Imperial Ordinances. He announced, that since the year 1799, when he gave the first example to Europe by vaccinating his two elder sons, he has never seen a single case to weaken his confidence in the efficacy of that practice.

An important letter, together with a treatise on this subject, has also been transmitted to the Board from Dr. Krause, an intelligent physician who is charged with the superintendence of vaccination in the circle of Rezat, in Bavaria. – He affirms, that in the circle, containing half a million of people, smallpox has never occurred since the year 1807.

And the report concludes: -- “It is a painful duty for us to state that 712 persons are reported by the bills of mortality of London, to have died of smallpox within the last year; and that the ravages committed by this disease, in many other cities, and in many parts of the country, have also been great: yet we believe them to be fairly attribut-



able to the neglect of universal vaccination, and the partial but too frequent practice of smallpox inoculation”

The Georgian. January 5, 1821.

Doct. R. McAlpin

Will receive under his instruction for one or more years, a young man from 14 to 17 years of age, who anticipates entering in the profession of Medicine. One who has knowledge in Latin language will be preferred. -- For further information, enquiries may be made of Messrs. *Pouyat & Holland*, opposite the Exchange, or at Dr. R. McA's lodgings on the Bay.

The Georgian. January 1, 1821

IMPROMPTU.

God and the Doctor we alike adore,
Just on the brink of danger – not before.
The danger past, both are alike requited:
God is forgotten, and the Doctor's slighted.

The Georgian. January 25, 1821.

RICE CULTIVATION – WIT.

Communicate.

Obituary Notice.

DIED, of the prevailing epidemic, the Honorable ARNOLDUS DRY-CULTURE, in the nine hundredth ninety-fifth day of his age, much regretted by the inhabitants of this city, and those within the vicinity, who have been regulated and benefitted by the *salubrious* counsel that frequently emanated from the *luxuriant* nature of his mind, and the constant concomitants of his acquaintance and presence.

Panegyric would not be useless, as its *fields have been drained*, and its storehouses exhausted, in extolling the merits and *beneficial influence* that this august personage has contributed for the good of mankind; but it is due candor and truth, to pay a last and passing tribute of respect, to worth.

From his early infancy nature endowed him with distinguished and peculiar

characteristics; and his friends saw in prospective the germ of greatness that would in time be brought to maturity, to diffuse strength, vigor, and support to the *body politic*, if not to the body corporate. -- Every tongue was busily engaged in lauding the merits of this prodigy, this Paragon of usefulness, whose efficiency in *the field*, as well as the cabinet, was a future period, to be the pride and boast of Savannah, and hailed his advancement with peculiar delight; and many saw (or fancied they saw) a luminary which would enlighten, at no distance day, the political hemisphere.

As he advanced in life, science was prostrate before him; and the philosophy of nature yielded the palm to his matchless, unequalled wisdom. Medical science was astounded and appalled, on beholding the improvements in physic, the workings of his mind; -- and metaphysicians sought in vain the records of antiquity, to confute the doctrines laid down in support of his theories. Every avenue to science was searched, every field and tract examined, and even the Pomptine marshes of foreign climes were exposed to adduce a parallel, and to establish the verity of his irresistible opinions. -- The fire of eloquences was kindled in every dwelling—at the festive boards, and at the town meetings; and when the fuel was exhausted, the goddess *Calliope* was invoked to contribute her aid in giving a plentiful supply. The utmost energies of the mind were brought into action, not excluding subtlety and tergiversation in support of this favorite, this child of universal parentage, which every one was required *no lens volens* to maintain. Every tongue that questioned its utility was hushed into quiescence, and the least frown was brow-beat, into insignificance. The mere semblance of opposition was violently assaulted and menaced with political extermination. Favoritism was threatened with denunciation, and independence in words and action, was about to be immolated by impotent hands. Trumpet-tongued adulation was busily

employed *undequaque*, and high rewards proffered to those who would loan their breath to *puff* into consequence what none could think of without commendation – none could speak of without loud applause. – Expectations was rapidly ascending the very pinnacle of anxiety, and all discovered that the very commencement of the career of this *magma Apollo*, was the consummation of what all desired – health, happiness, the acquirements of wealth, and the glare of consequence that none could behold without being dazzled; and none could contemplate without conviction. From such a combination of superior qualifications, centered in one object, is it a matter of surprise that regret should follow the demise of so excellent a personage? Who is it that will now reuse to exclaim with me, alas poor *Dry-Culture!*

The profession or trade of this character was very lucrative. He amassed in short time upwards of sixty thousand dollars, which draws an interest of twenty-five per cent. (*by taxation*), and which bids fair to leave all establishments as regards riches, very far in the background, not excluding the public treasury, as well as individual pockets.

The interment was conducted with great solemnity, the *inhabitants being principal mourners*, that gave an effect to the funeral ceremony, seldom to be equalled; and concourse was so great, that at once manifested much respect and deep regret, while the tears of hundreds testified the worth, excellence, and *irreparable loss* sustained by this *public calamity*. Let us hope his remains will eat in the silent tomb of oblivion, and that his spirit will be received in that mansion where *folly* and *delusion* are known to seek refuge. The Georgian. January 17, 1821.



Happy New Year! Looking forward to being with you in 2021!!