



Davenport House Museum Volunteer Newsletter

February 2021

www.davenportmuseum.org

912/236-8097

Become a Facebook fan, follow us on Instagram and Twitter



The Subscriber will remit the State and Country Taxes for 1819, on the property and buildings burnt by the fire in this city in January last, in conformity with the Act of Legislature, entitled "an act to authorize the Treasurer to issue orders to the Tax Collector of Chatham County, to remit the Taxes for the year 1819, on sufferers by the fire of the 11th of January 1820 in Savannah."

James Eppinger, Tax Col.
Georgian, February 3, 1821.

Drawing the Wrong Tooth.

One of the most curious applications of galvanism to the useful purpose of life, is its recent employment as a means of distinguishing bad teeth from good. The test which galvanism has now supplied to remedy the frequent mistakes made by dentists, who instead of ridding you of a bad tooth, will draw the best one you have in your head, is considered to be one of infallible certainty in its application. The method is thus described by Professor Aldini, the nephew of Galvani. "He (the dentist) first insulates the patient, and then places in his hands an electric chain; he then applies a small piece of wire and draws it gradually over the surface of the tooth, he then applies it to the next tooth in the same manner, and proceeds in the like method with the rest until he comes to the diseased tooth, which is discovered by violent pain being produced, and an



involuntary emotion in the body. It has always been remarked, when the tooth is extracted, that it exhibits a carious part,

which in its proper situation was not visible." Need we add, that after the discovery of so simple a test, drawing a wrong tooth out to be made a felony at least!

Georgian, February 3, 1821.

Dr. Randall

Respectfully informs those who wish his service at this time as a

SURGEON DENTIST,

To give him notice before the 15th of the present month, as he will then close his profession in the city for the present, should not further engagements present. Dr. R. may be constantly found at Mrs. Duke's in State-street, St. James' square, directly opposite the old Presbyterian Church.

>>References as regard to moral and professional character – Dr. Kollock, Rev. Mr. Cranston, Messrs. E. Williams (Co Nicholas & Neff, John Morel and S. B. Parkman.

Georgian, February 7, 1821.

A Miser's Dinner

Swift, having dined with a rich Miser, pronounced the following grace after dinner.

"Thanks for this miracle, it is no less Than finding manna in the wilderness, In midst of famine we have found relief, And seen the wonder of a chime of beef! Chimneys have smok'd that never smok'd before And we have din'd, where we shall dine no more."

Georgian, February 9, 1821.

Bought to Gaol

In Jacksonboroug, Georgia, 5th February, 1821, a Negro man who says his name is QUACO, and that he belongs to Wm. Gaston of Savannah, Georgia. He is African born of dark complexion, suppose 40 or 45 years old, 5 feet 5 or 6 inches high, has several of his under fore teeth out, and conspicuous scar on his left ear, which he says was occasioned by the blow of a stick, rather stutters.

The owner is requested to come forward, prove property, pay charges, and take him away, Scriven county 7th Feb. 1821.

SOLOMON KEMP, G.S.C.

Savannah Daily Republican, February 14, 1821.

Lorenzo Dow, the celebrated itinerant preacher, arrived here yesterday.

Georgian, February 14, 1821.

POINTERS,

For sale – two full blooded English POINTERS, thoroughly broke in – apply to the subscriber to R. McGuan's West Broad Street.



LANTY MCGORAN.

Savannah Daily Republican, February 17, 1821

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.

On Thursday, the 1st inst. Jesse, a son of Mr. Emius Jordan, living near this place, a child of about 4 years old, was killed by a negro boy of the same age. They were chopping with axes on a piece of timber, standing on opposite sides, and it is presumed that the unfortunate little boy in the act of stooping, received the other's axe on the top of his head, which split his skull open to the brain; he lived but five minutes. Accidents happen to all, and from death none are free. The youth, while engaged in innocent mirth, are suddenly made a pretty to the jaws of death, and their parents are made to weep for "that which cannot be restored." This accident should be a warning to parents not to suffer their children to amuse themselves with dangerous tools.

Georgia Missionary.
Georgian, February 20, 1821.

Dr. Robert McAlpin

SURGEON AND ACCOUCHEUR

Has removed his Office next door to the French Counsel, Court-House Square.

>Wanted a Wet Nurse between the age of twenty-six and thirty-two, with milk from two to three months old. One from the country will be preferred. Apply at the above Office.

Georgian, February 24, 1824.

Wanted,

A Furnished Room, with board for a married Lady without children or domestics, in a private family of respectability; it would be preferred as close to the Exchange as possible. A line addressed to A. B. and left at this Office, will be duly attended to.

Georgian, February 27, 1821.

DAVENPORT HOUSE CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2021

- Thursday, February 4 at 1 p.m. –**
AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE
with Dr. Nancy Hubbard on **Vernacular & 20th Century** architecture via Zoom
- Monday, February 8 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. –** Docent Training Program (begin at the DH with class in the HSB Board Room/Sheftall House)
- Tuesday, February 9 at 1 p.m. –**
Curator's Discussion: Daily Life and the Rhythm of the Day in an Antebellum Urban House via Zoom
- Wednesday, February 10 at 5 p.m. –** Tea program Zoom call (Consider participating)
- Thursday, February 11 at 1 p.m. –**
AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE
with Dr. Nancy Hubbard/
Preservation session via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. –** Monthly JI meeting via Zoom
- Sunday, February 14 from 5 to 7 p.m. –** Valentine's Day Weddings in the Garden
- Monday, February 15 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. –** Docent Training Program (HSB Board Room/Sheftall House)
- Tuesday, February 16 at 11 a.m. –** Davenport House Committee meeting via Zoom
- Thursday, February 18 at 8:30 a.m. –** DH Endowment Directors meeting via Zoom
- Saturday, February 20 from 4 to 7 p.m. –** Garden rental
- Monday, February 22 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. –** Docent Training Program (HSB Board Room/Sheftall House)
- Tuesday, February 23 at 1 p.m. at The Learning Center/SCI –** Presentation on 1820/Fire and Fever

DEAR DH PEOPLE,

We are trying to be normal in abnormal times.

February should be the month for mid-winter programs and planning for the spring busy season. But there will be no **Potable Gold: Savannah's**

Madeira Tradition or ***Yellow Fever*** for STEM students this year and planning for spring visitors is a big question mark. We have very few pre-scheduled spring tour groups on the calendar. But know we will return to a seven-day-a-week schedule (done safely) with President's Day weekend and will hope for the best.

As we get vaccinated and feel safe moving about, we will rebuild and reconfigure our business and our programming. We will adjust to what is.

The DH needs you and your input in finding its footing. We are grateful to have made it to this point and are grateful you are here with us.

Your Friends at the DH

AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE – Sessions 4 and 5.

Thursdays, February 4 and 11 at 1 p.m. – AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE class.



Look for the link the Monday before the schedule presentation of the last two sessions taught by **Nancy Hubbard**.

We are in Nancy's debt for teaching these classes to the DH community. She is adapting her presentations to Savannah architecture and she is sharing her PowerPoints to anyone interested. If you would like a copy on any of the sessions (or all of them), please let Sheena or Jamie know! The February 4 session will be ***Wrapping Up Architecture Styles Include Vernacular and 20th Century Examples***. The February 11 session will be on ***Historic Preservation***.

CONVERSATION with Jamie Credle and Katherine Keena



On Tuesday, February 9 at 1 p.m. Jamie and Katherine will talk about routine household tasks -

Hours of the Day, Days of the Week, Seasons of the Year with regard to the DH's inter-

pretation.

The Zoom link will be sent out to docents and JIs the week before and a reminder the day of. Following the session the PowerPoint presentation will be available to those who wish to have it.

DOCENTS NEWS:

- **DH Docent Training Program** will be held in February. Because of construction at the Kennedy Pharmacy, much of the training course will take place in the HSB Board Room in the Sheftall House, across Columbia Square from the DH. Let Jamie or Sheena know if you know of someone who may like to participate. It is a nice – safe – way to keep your brain nimble during this time of isolation.

DH Docent Training Schedule:

- **Monday, February 8 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. –** *Orientation and Introduction DH's Story and Preservation – Getting to Know You*
- **Monday, February 15 from 4:30 until 6:30 p.m. –** *Architecture/Planned City (walking around Columbia Square/Greene Square), Savannah 1820s, Why the House Looks the Way it Does, Master Builder and Family; Room Studies*
- **Monday, February 22 from 4:30 until 6:30 p.m. –** *Enslaved Household, Communicating a Difficult History; Room Studies*
- **Monday, March 1 from 4:30 until 6:30 p.m. –** *Communicating Our Story to the Public*
- **Monday, March 8 from 4:30 until 6:30 p.m. –** *Topics not previously covered - Sample Tour, Group Walk thru Session, Security/ Safety*
- **Hurray for Patsy:** Patsy Kraeger completed training in January and is now a full-fledged docent!

JUNIOR INTERPRETERS:

- **Meeting:** The February JI meeting will be on Thursday, February 11 at 6 p.m. via Zoom - Topic – For the Foodie/**The Antebellum Kitchen**

VALENTINE'S DAY WEDDINGS IN THE DAVENPORT HOUSE GARDEN

Sunday, February 14, 2021
TIME: 5 to 7 p.m.

DONATION: \$100

The Davenport House Museum will provide couples with a safe and economical way to say "I Do" in one of historic downtown Savannah's most beautiful gardens on the most romantic day of the year, Valentine's Day - Sunday, February 14. The annual event will be COVID-19 safety-compliant in 2021.

Ceremonies, conducted by a licensed officiant (Sheena Fulkerson!), will be offered every twenty minutes between 5-7 p.m. for a \$100 donation. Couples will be expected to follow safety protocol as specified by local, state, and federal mandates. No more than ten people can be present at the wedding, including the marrying couple.

Recommitment ceremonies, as well as first weddings, will be conducted. Those marrying for the first time should bring a valid Georgia marriage license, which does not require a waiting period or a blood test, to the ceremony. In the event of rain, ceremonies will be performed on the back porch of the Museum that overlooks the garden.



TEA PROGRAM

The DH Tea programs – *Tea in the Garden* in March and *Tea at Mrs. Davenport's* in May – remain on the calendar. The program will be developed in February with the hope of presenting some of all the planned dates in the spring. Covid-19 safety precautions will be in effect. Please let Jamie know if you would like to participate. It will require a period costume and a joyful attitude. Jamie, Jeff, and Jan have already signed on.

WORTH MENTIONING

- **Annual Cleaning:** Raleigh Mar-

cell executed the work while the house was closed in January.

- **Thank you, John:** In January **John Sorel** repaired the wallpaper in the bedroom level hall and the Master Bedroom, painted over the scuffs on the stair treads and the ceiling at the top of the stairs from the basement to the 1st floor, and cleaned the back porch.

- **Super Museum Sunday:** The annual free day on the Sunday before Georgia Day has been postponed until Sunday, May 2nd. The **Georgia Historical Society** hosts and promotes the annual event. With every bit of optimism they can muster, the May date is on our calendar. Usually, Junior Interpreters staff the house for this busy afternoon. We will see how the spring progresses before we plan to staff the museum.

- **Road Scholars.** In January **Charla Childers** of Georgia Southern University reported that the Road Scholars program, originally presented by AASU, and then moved over to GSU, is no more. The DH was part of an always changing itinerary of thoughtful, signature Savannah activities for RS patrons. The DH programs that originated or flowered with AASU Road Scholars are: ***Our Old House: Director's Preservation Tour, How to Save a House: DHM in Savannah's Preservation Movement, Drink Up: Alcohol Consumption in Early 19th Savannah, Isaiah Davenport: The Master Builder and his House, Welcoming Lafayette: The Nation's Guest,*** and since 2016, ***Urban Slavery in a Mechanic's Household in Early 19th Century Savannah.*** RS/AASU often brought groups in December for an expanded visit including a dance program demonstration.

- **Friends:** Thank you for answering the DH's call for **Friends of the Davenport House** contribution. We are humbled by your generosity. Know how grateful we are for everything you do for our Museum. If you have not yet donated, it would be welcomed as a gift to the house and operations you love. An up-to-date listing of members will be in the April **Friends of the Davenport House** newsletter.

- **Tremendous loss:** The DH lost two beloved members of its community—**Lynn Hadwin** and **Charles Taylor**, our colleague **Stephen Bohlin** and Savannah physician/historian/artist/bon vivant **Preston Russell** in January.



DOCENT SPOTLIGHT

Gena Fausel

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

Gena: I learned about the DH from a neighbor, Jan Will on Tybee Island. She serves on the Board of Directors. When the Harper Fowlkes House closed due to Covid, my colleague, Richard Kack suggested we volunteer at the DH. He said it would keep us sharp and we would still be working together. He was right.

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

Gena: I am a semi-retired teacher (27yrs). My subject was Family and Consumer Science, in particular Textiles and Clothing. Now I design hats, jewelry and decorative arts that are consigned in a gallery on Tybee Island.

I am also a Master Gardener for Chatham County. I answer questions for our Garden Clinic, and work in 2 historic gardens, Greenwich Pond Park, and Harper Fowlkes House Garden. I also serve as VP of our Master Garden Association.

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

Gena: I love the story it shares about hard work at all levels of the social ladder.

It's real including the story of the Historic Savannah Foundation's hard work saving the house for our learning today.

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

Gena: I'm pretty new here, so my experiences have been in the normal range, but I'm anticipating unusual times ahead.

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

Gena: Originally from KY, once retired from teaching in OH, I began living here seasonally 3-4 months during the winter. I made it more permanent in 2016.

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

Gena: Spending time outdoors taking in all the beautiful views from rooftops, squares or coastal trails.

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

Gena: For my husband, upon his retirement, to join me year round to enjoy the low country together.



During the month of January 2021, the Davenport House Museum saw visitors from Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Missouri, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, and Wisconsin. We welcomed international guests from South Korea.

BALLOON.

A large BALLOON will be raised from the Washington Garden THIS EVENING

WASHINGTON'S BIRTH DAY,

Between the hours of 6 and 7 o'clock. Tickets of admission (50 cents each) may be had at the Bar of the Washington Coffee House.



NATHAN ADAMS.

Georgian. February 20, 1821.

Communicated.

The citizens of Savannah were highly pleased with the ascension of a Balloon from the Washington Garden, on Thursday evening last, in honor of Washington's Birth-Day. Although Mr. Adams did not succeed in raising his large one, owing to a gust of wind, which struck and blew it against a tree, the moment it was inflated, yet much credit is due to the ingenious artist of the skill displayed in raising the small one. It could be observed from the Garden till it had the appearance of a star, gently sailing towards Carolina. Mr. Adams immediately offered to refund the money paid for admission, but we were much pleased to observe, so great was the confidence placed in his ability in raising it, had it not been for the above unavoidable and unfortunate circumstance, that not a cent was received back; but on the contrary, every encouragement offered him to make another attempt, which we learn he intends doing in a few days.

Georgian. February 24, 1821

The following parody was taken from a Lottery advertisement of Tyler, in a New York paper:

THE WAY TO GET MARRIED.

A lover so poor, and a maiden so bright,

Conversed as they sat in the shed;

They gaz'd on each other with tender delight;

Tommy Jones was the name of the love stricken wight,

And Gla! Said the youth, since my fate is so low,

Since I own no stock, houses or land,

All claim to your charms I must ever forego,

The faith you now plight you'll forget, and bestow

On a wealthier suitor young hand.

Oh! Hush thee such nonsense, fair Adelaide cries,

Injurious to love and to me;

Fortune favors the bold, then away with your sigh;

Buy ten tickets at Tyler's and gain the grand prize,

And Adelaide's husband you'll be.

Secure in her love goes the lover so proud,

And at Tyler's ten tickets he buys;

But, scarce had a fortnight elaps'd, when the crowd,

Assembl'd at Tyler's re-echo'd aloud

That Tommy had carried the Prize!

To Adelaide, then, with the speed of a dart,

With breathless impatience he hied;

But in vain tied his tongue the glad news to impart ---

Tyler's Prize List he shows—claps his love to his heart,

And the Parson proclaimed her his bride

O! long shall Tyler our praises engage,

And smooth the rough journey of life,

Shall supply ev'ry want, ev'ry pang shall assuage,

Give bright hopes to the young, give a staff to old age,

And to every poor Lover a Wife!

Georgian. February 5, 1821.



Musing on the Next 7 Ladies: Talking to Up-and-Comers



Anna Hunter, Preservationist

Do you ever feel your ideas are old-fashioned or out-of-step? A good way to gauge how your

feelings stack up is to talk – or rather – listen to younger people about the subject in question and see how their ideas compare with yours. Recently I spoke with several young women about *Savannah Women of Preservation*. I am not going to name them for fear of having misquoted them. While it was not a diverse group, all four have Masters degrees in Historic Preservation, each in her late 20s or early 30s and making a living in her chosen field - one outside of preservation and three inside - in Savannah. I wanted to find out what they think being *a woman in preservation* is and what it means because I am anxious for who and how the banner of preservation will be taken up. Our icons our “Seven Ladies” are now mythic. Is it possible to be an *Anna Hunter* today?

Internet definitions:

Preservationist - a supporter or advocate of the preservation of something, especially of historic buildings and artifacts. (Google

definition.)

Preservationist is generally understood to mean historic preservationist: one who advocates to preserve architecturally or historically significant buildings, structures, objects, or sites from demolition or degradation. (Wikipedia.)

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE YOUNGER CROWD:

>**Preservation** to me is about protecting historic integrity – insuring objects and buildings of the past endure for future generations. Preservationists are guardians of those elements. Why? Buildings help create a sense of place. Preservationists work to ensure that our country’s historic identity is not lost in the constant development and revitalization of areas. It is finding the balance between what is built and what is about to be built.

>**Preservation** is such a wide field. There are so many concentrations – historian, architect, advocate, lawyer. There are many ways to engage in the subject matter. Really, it is how you use your work to safeguard buildings, narratives and communities.

>**Preservation** is larger than just a single building. It is about preserving a moment of significance or of an event in time. Many people think of preservation as fixed on *the building* but it is more than that. It is what the building

represents. I have been watching a lot of *YouTube* videos by *English Heritage* and they espouse preserving a culture – an entire culture that was within those walls – what people ate, what they wore, how they spoke. It is larger than any one thing. An example - **The Gilded Age** is not just about one house in Newport. It was a culture.

WOMEN IN PRESERVATION:

>When you called me and said you wanted to talk about women in the preservation field, I could not think of a single woman. When I think of preservation, I think of men. The luminaries, such as Donovan Rypkema, are male. My professors were all male BUT my classes were largely women. Preservation can be quite intimidating as a male dominated-field. It was jarring when all of my graduate school professors were males, having come from a liberal arts college.

>Going through school there were mostly females in the program. There were some guys but it was mostly female. And it seems today most of the planners are women and the construction field is mostly men.

It is a breakout time for a generation of preservationists. In Savannah there are Ellen Harris and Leah Michalak on the planning side; Luciana Spracher in archives, Sabrina Cox and Courtney Bonney at SCAD. There is Mae

Bowley of *RE:Purpose Savannah*, a deconstruction firm with a female crew in the construction trades. There is Breanna Paxton of *Place Economics* who is a real brain crunching the numbers for preservation. She did the **Beyond Tourism** study.

>The historic roots of preservation are with women who volunteered.

There are plenty of people who are about preservation but there are not always paid opportunities in the field. That is an obstacle. It is extremely difficult to find a job. I always loved history and got my undergraduate degree in history. In my senior year in high school my parents renovated a house. It was an interesting process to observe. Of course there were plenty of questions during my college years about, “What you going to do with your history degree?” There was a Blue Card event at UGA on “What do you do with your history major.”

Historic preservation was one of the paths recommended. I have always been interested in architectur-

al design, having started out with my parents dragging me to see old churches and other buildings. Also, Mark McDonald, who was with HSF, is a family friend. From him I knew it was possible and turned to him for career advice.

Though there are a lot of women in the field, it is a struggle stay in it. It is so hard to keep your income where you need it to be.

>I cried when I heard Emma Adler had died. There will never be another Emma Adler. She used her position and her pocketbook to exact change. I think many of us saw her as a well-off, older white lady and thought “I can’t be that.” We need to find the next one. She was a movement in herself. There has to be a perspective shift on how we view preservation leaders. She was the face of preservation in Savannah. Who will be the next?

People assume preservation is expensive and time consuming; that there is a lot of red tape. Generally people want an easy way out, so they pay no mind to it.

>There is an overlap with working at historic sites and being a planner. You work with the public every day talking with people and sharing your

knowledge on why it is important. The experiences with the two carry over. It is about making a connection. It is taking what *the ladies* started and learning from all the work they did. Take that inspiration and continue to advocate for the integrity of historic structure. Having the mind-set of the true value of history, objects and any historic site is part of the battle. You’ve got to get them [people – the public – our customers] to see the beauty and to protect it for future generations knowing that once the resource is gone - it is gone for good.

>I thought I was going to do something preservation related for my career. People can have more than one thing if they are invested.

Though not in preservation as my paid employment, I use the communication skills I learned in college to advocate. One of the best things I learned came from *7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, “seek first to understand and then be understood.” I spent an hour yesterday with my hair-dresser who wanted to paint her beautiful brick and wood white. I wanted to understand her first. I let her explain first what she wanted for the space. Once she had been heard and her position explained, I let her know another perspective. If we slow down and try to understand one another, we can make more informed decisions.

And, I feel in the pandemic, buildings – and their possibilities - give people something to look forward.

So now, I don’t feel so old-fashioned. . . . And, I see who will take up the banner! JC

