

# Tabby Tattler

Dataw Historic Foundation Newsletter

Volume 1, Spring 2003

## Letter from the President

It is with great pleasure that I welcome the members of the Dataw Historic Foundation to our first newsletter. The question is often asked "What does DHF do?" I hope that you will find the answer to that question here.

As you will see 2003 has been and will be an exciting year for us. I am now in the second year of my two year term as president and I am very fortunate as well as grateful to have so many talented and helpful Board and working members of the group. They are the best and know how to make things happen.

We are currently in need of volunteers who might be interested in collecting the more recent history of Dataw since Alcoa bought it. There are people who remember that the first building materials were brought here by barge from Warsaw Island and the first DIOA annual meeting was held on Bob Marshall's back porch. DHF has some material but we need to interview people who were here in the early years. Call me if you are interested. 838-0897

*Cathy Crocker*

## Ruins Conservation

One hundred and thirty eight hours and eighty bags of oyster shells have gone into the recent conservation work done by Rick Wightman at the Sams Plantation ruins.

Rick capped the top of the walls in the middlehouse, capped the kitchen chimney and capped and repaired the chimney bases in the East and West wings of the house. Tabby is porous and capping helps prevent moisture from penetrating the tabby causing it to crack and fall. Rick was not satisfied with the color of the capping so he used a trick that he has used before to darken it - manure - zebra or hippopotamus - found on a nearby plantation.

We are very fortunate to have some of the best-kept tabby ruins not only in the Lowcountry but also in the whole country. We are also very fortunate to have so many island residents who give generously to the foundation to help with the conservation work.

*Brenda Norris*  
*Ruins Conservation Chair*

## Oyster Roast

On March 3, DHF held its fourth Annual Oyster Roast on the grounds behind the Cannery. Over 200 people feasted on oysters supplied by Reeves Outdoor Catering. Other food selections which included hot dogs, soup, cornbread and desserts were prepared by a team of great volunteers. While shucking oysters, guests enjoyed the guitar music of Jonmark Stone.

Unlike last year's frigid temperatures this year's weather was perfect; not so cold as to require heavy clothing and not so warm as to cause problems with bugs.

The Oyster Roast is one of the primary fundraisers of DHF. Profits of the Roast help DHF defray the cost of the preservation of our tabby ruins.

*Kathee Schmit*  
*Fundraising Chair*

### Membership 2003

Members @ \$25	166
Supporters @ \$50	53
Patrons @ \$100	13
Benefactors @ \$250	4
Total	236

## Mark Your Calendars

### October 6, Fish Fry

Another fun event is planned for this fall. On Monday, October 6, a Fish Fry will be held at the Gazebo near the Marina. The meal will be catered by Steve Brown with cooking done on the premises. Beer, wine and iced tea will be served.

Those of you who attended the Oyster Roast will know that this is an event not to be missed. Look for more details.

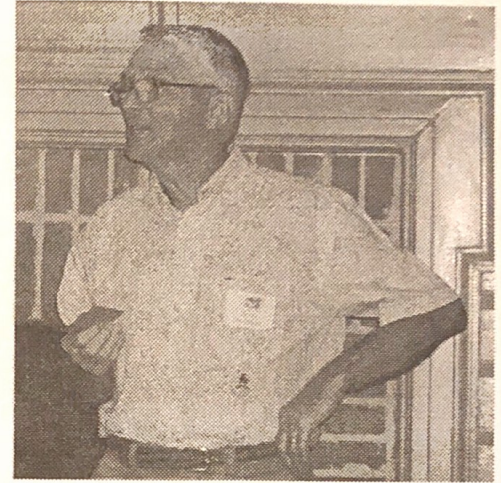
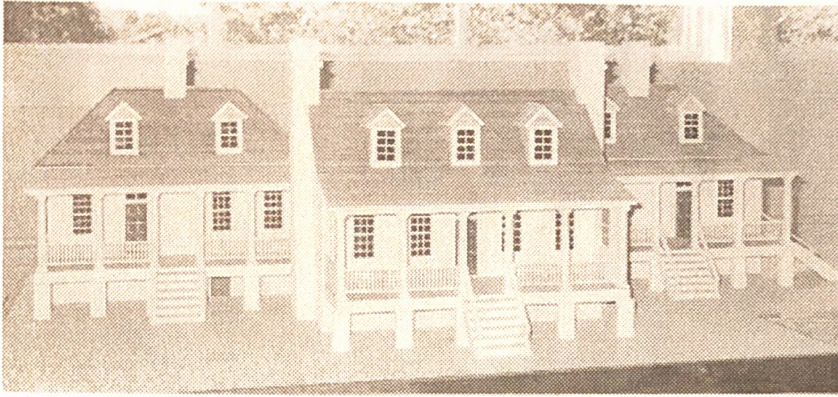
## New Signs in the Ruins

With the approval of the ARB and DIOA, the Dataw Historic Foundation will begin updating and replacing existing signs as well as adding new ones. A standards size of 18" x 24" silk screened aluminum with black type on a beige background has been selected. The mounts will be natural wood.

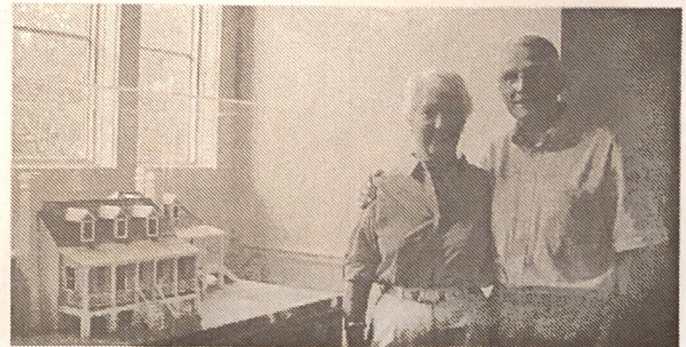
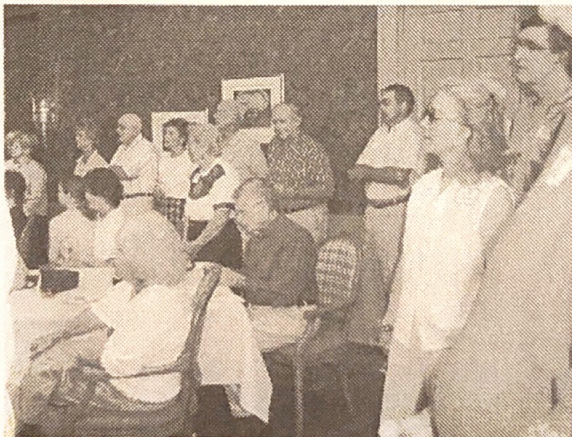
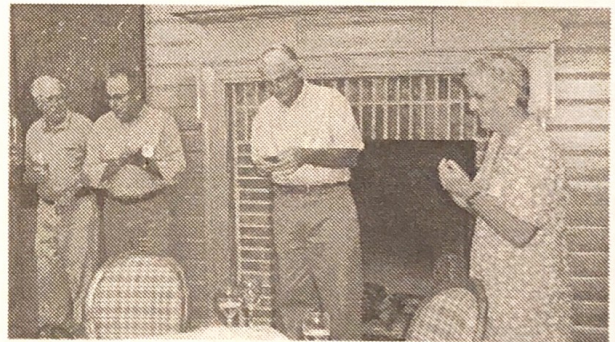
Currently lacking at the ruins is detailed information on the history of the plantation, its owners, the crops it produced and that materials of which it was built - tabby. To fill this void and add a "focal point" it is envisioned to add four interpretive signs to an area in front of the plantation home. The signs would cover the subjects mentioned above and be enhanced by a bench and modest plantings.

*Warren Dickson*





April 15 celebration honoring Jerry Hubbard and the unveiling of his model of the B.B. Sams Plantation House.

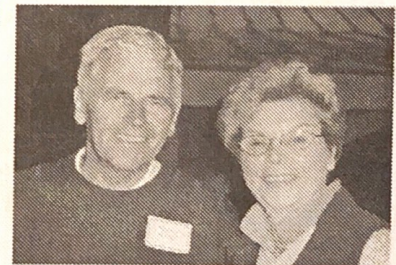






March, 2003

# Oyster Roast



Kathee & Herman Schmit  
Chairpersons





## An Historic Treasure Finds a Home at Dataw Island Clubhouse

On Tuesday evening, April 15, 2003, a large crowd of over 150 Dataw Historic Foundation members attended the unveiling of a wonderful and very valuable piece of art at the Dataw Island Clubhouse. The art is a museum quality, historically accurate scale model of the B.B. Sams Plantation House created by Dataw resident Jerry Hubbard. The original Plantation house was constructed in the late 1700s, and today the house ruins are among the most valuable displays of remaining tabby structures in America.

At the special reception for Jerry and his wife, Linda, the model was placed in a museum-type setting in the Clubhouse. Some months earlier, the Hubbards had gifted the model to the Dataw Historic Foundation; and at the April 15th event, the DHF officially loaned the model to the Club. As DHF President, Cathy Crocker said: "We are honored that Jerry and his wife decided to gift the model to DHF. We plan to showcase it and will endeavor to be good custodians of this impressive new addition to our historic collection. We know it will provide much pleasure to the residents of the island."

The enthusiastic DHF crowd marveled at the meticulous detail of the model. Jerry told several members that "building things" has been a passion of his since childhood days in England. He built his first real sailboat with his brother when he was 14 and has built five catamarans over the years. His passion for "building things" continued after he graduated from MIT as a mechanical engineer. Now he gets great satisfaction out of sculpting and carving birds. Since 1998 Jerry has completed 10 sculptures and carvings and several have been exhibited in local galleries.

His "passion" for this special project began when he was approached by DHF Board member, Warren Dickson, and asked if he would do a small model for the foundation. As Jerry remembers, "I said yes because of my interest in the ruins and Dataw's history. I was willing to put some time into the project because I wanted it to be better than a similar model on Spring Island. But, I had no idea it would take me over a year and close to 600 hours to complete." Linda said that Jerry became immersed in the project because he is a "great stickler for detail and was determined to make the model as authentic as possible."

Jerry began the project in late 2001 and first built a cardboard version to gain some sense of scale. Researching the history of the house to make sure the final model would be as accurate as possible took almost six months. He was able to gain valuable insight from two books which covered the archeological evidence of the house, a mid 1800s sketch of the house, a late 1800s diary of one of B .B. Sams sons and several discussions with historians Colin Brooker and Larry Rowland.. He also made a trip to Retreat Plantation which was built in 1740-50 and which is nearly identical to the central, and oldest portion of the Sams Plantation.

Jerry began to build the actual wooden model in the spring of 2002 and completed it some months later. The model is 46" long x 24" wide by 14.5 inches high.

Now that Jerry has completed the model, he claims he will have more time for golf. Yet he remains very busy as a member of the Dataw Island Club Board of Directors and during his spare time he continues with a "passion for building things" by putting finishing touches on a new eagle sculpture and beginning a Carolina wren. Thank you Jerry caring about Dataw's history and for taking many hours out of your busy schedule to create a true historic treasure for the residents of Dataw Island.

*Jack Brown*

The story behind the name - Westbrook Road

An early document dated March 21, 1698/99 referred to our island as Westbrook's Island. The name was obviously derived from a personal name and the only person of that name known in the area was Caleb Westbrook. Westbrook, a Scot, established an Indian Trading Post on Dataw by a warrant issued to him in 1682.

"You are forthwith: to cause to admeasured & laid out to Caleb Westbrooke two hundred & sixty acres of land being soe much due him by the Lords Proprietors ..... this shall be your warrt: dated this 24th day of October 1682."

At that time indian trade was the principle economy of the Sea Islands and Westbrook's establishment would have been small with minimal development of the land. He was deeply involved with the Yemassee Indians and is reputed to have incited them to raid the Spanish, possibly a cause of the Spanish attack that destroyed the Scot's settlement of Stuart Town on Port Royal Island in 1684.

Westbrook was killed by a Savannah Indian in 1693, and no record of an heir has been found.

*Cynthia Lanphear*



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