

Dataw Historic Foundation Newsletter

Volume III, Spring 2006

Featuring

## "The Iceman Cometh" and lots more...



### Jack Brown, New DHF President

Last January Cathy Crocker turned over the DHF leadership to former Vice President, Jack Brown. Meeting agendas continue to be interesting with many preservation projects, maintenance projects, social events, archiving updates, historical updates and special projects presented and discussed. Read about them in this issue.

### From the President...

As the new president of the **Dataw Historic Foundation**, it is my pleasure to welcome Dataw residents to our newest issue of the *Tabby Tattler*. As you will see in the next several pages, the Foundation has undertaken several new projects and continually strives to maintain Dataw's tabby heritage as well as to educate residents about our interesting past.

The DHF was founded a little over 10 years ago by a small group of residents who were concerned about the deteriorating condition of our plantation ruins and the fact that many of the valuable artifacts were leaving Dataw for the Beaufort museum. Thanks to the diligent efforts of many DHF members, both troublesome situations have been corrected over the past several years. Today, I am proud to say Dataw has some of the best historic plantation ruins in the country. DHF continues to be the caretaker of the ruins and has been able to compile an extensive inventory of artifacts and records on Dataw's rich history.

Our membership drive started in January, and we now have close to 300 members with more Dataw residents joining DHF every week. We hope to reach a goal of 330 members by the end of this year. That would represent 42% of Dataw residents. The Foundation's overall goal for 2006 is to build on the success of recent years. A vibrant and energetic Board, including

several new members, was elected in early January and is working to accomplish 11ambitious goals set

### **DHF Membership Info**

DHF seeks support from <u>all</u> Island residents. If you are not currently a member, please respond to the letter enclosed in this newsletter.

### Save the Dates

May 17 Fireside Chat with Dr. John McCardell

Oct. 16 Fish Fry

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for the year. Much has been accomplished, but there is still lots to do.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank all of the hardworking volunteers of DHF who have worked on many projects over the past year. Most of all I would like to thank the members of DHF for their support and continuing financial help. For those of you who are not yet members, I encourage you to join because a healthy and growing DHF membership is vitally important to preserving Dataw's rich history.

Jack Brown



Back: Jack Brown, Peter Payne, Barbara Titus, Marilyn Peck, Jane Griffith, Barbara Clinkenbeard, Cathy Crocker, Kathee Schmit, John Colgan Front: Ann Craigmile, Cece Megrue, Denise Ogden, Leslie Holbrook, Marj Dehls, Pat Bell, John Haslett, Herman Schmit. Not present: Mariann Golobic

# 2006 Oyster Roast • Delicious food

- · Good music
- Wonderful Dataw camaraderie

## A Great Evening! Thanks for your support.

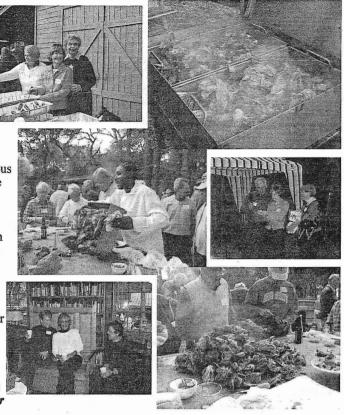
On March 6 at the ruins, over 200 DHF members enjoyed fine weather, plenty of fresh, "tasty" steamed oysters, a great selection of food and drink, good music and an array of delicious desserts at the 7th Annual Oyster Roast. What more could we ask for?

In addition to oysters, gumbo, corn bread, potato salad, 3-bean salad, chips and grilled hot dogs were plentiful. Volunteers made the fantastic desserts, which were served with coffee in the cannery.

Highlighting the evening was the drawing for the four extraordinary raffle prizes.

Special thanks go to Carol Looney, co-chair; Gloria Otley, raffle chair; Lynn Scoville, dessert chair; Art Looney and Charlie Holbrook, beverage chairs; Karl Kendall, grounds chair and Ann Craigmile, publicity chair. Extra special thanks to the many volunteers that contributed desserts and "manned" the food and beverage lines.

The Oyster Roast is the major fundraiser for the DHF, and the DHF Board thanks all those attending for their enthusiastic Kathee Schmit, DHF Fundraiser Chair support.



### DHF Wins 2006 Danner Award

### Historic Beaufort Foundation's Top Award for Preservation

At Historic Beaufort Foundation's 40th annual meeting held on March 13 at St. Helena Episcopal Church, the Dataw Historic Foundation received the prestigious Danner Award. This award is given in recognition of outstanding contributions and commitment to historic preservation. The award is named for Howard Danner, the founder of Historic Beaufort Foundation. Cathy Crocker and Jack

President Jack Brown and Past President Cathy Crocker receiving the Danner Award from Mike Adams, President of Historic Beaufort Foundation.

Brown were present to receive the honor, which was presented by HBF President Mike Adams. The following is quoted from the presentation.

> Growing out of Alcoa's purchase of Dataw island with its significant tabby ruins, the B. B. Sams Plantation Complex, the DHF was recognized for working to record and preserve Dataw's rich 300-year history.

Starting as the Ruins Committee, the Dataw Foundation has preserved and fostered the plantation history of Dataw Island. They have collected, recorded, preserved and displayed artifacts and documents related to Dataw's plantation era. They preserved and enhanced the island's historical sites and structures, and they promoted an awareness of the island's history among current residents, prospective residents and historians. Most importantly, they have worked to preserve the historic ruins at Dataw Island that are a rare and unique survivor of our region's antellum history.

Dataw resident and DHF member Sally Timms was awarded the Wyatt B. Pringle award for her outstanding service as an active HBF leader since the 1980s.

#### Dataw is well represented on Historic Bearfort Foundation Board

Dataw resident, J. Wood (Woody) Rutter, retired headmaster of the Beaufort Academy, has been elected new chair of the Foundation board, replacing Dataw resident, Mike Adams (now member-at-large).

DHF President Jack Brown was named to a three-year term on the HBF Board of Trustees. Congratulations to each of you.

## **Updates on DHF Projects and Activities**

### **Preservation Work**

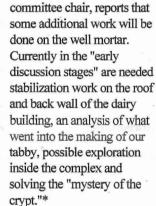
The two major projects (1) the stabilization of the Sams cemetery wall and (2) the reconstruction of the old well in the Sams Plantation Complex have been completed. Taylor Kinsey from Palmetto Masonry was the contractor.





Cathy Crocker, ruins







#### **Ruins Tour for Winterthur Students**

Jack Brown conducted a special tour of our ruins for ten graduate students and their professor from Winterthur. The students are majoring in Early American Culture, and Dataw was one of five historic sites in the Beaufort area selected for the tour.

### **DHF Directors-at-Large Named**

Four "At-Large" Directors have joined the Board who will be adding their expertise to several committees as well as assisting on special projects. The Board welcomes Mariann Golobic, Jane Griffith, Leslie Holbrook and Denise Ogden.

### **Huge Artifacts Reorganization**

Barbara Clinkenbeard, historic committee chair, and several volunteers are in the process of locating all artifacts (there are several boxes in addition to those displayed in serveral locations), creating a uniform filing system and assembling an all-inclusive listing of artifacts. Big Job!

### **New Signs**

Two new signs have been erected at the Sams cemetery site. One of the signs depicts the "Cemetery Oak Tree," giving its history and celebrating its designation as one of the oldest

of its kind in the U.S. The other tells the story of the Sams cemetery chapel. Thanks go to Warren Dickson for his coordination of the 16 new signs and to Nan Bopp, Dick Golobic, Ann Craigmile and Peter Pearks



for their roles in the creation of the signs. DHF members Carol Mack, Art Looney, Bill Bonneville and Peter Pearks along with Jack Brown and John Colgan had the signs in the ground before you could say "Berners Barnwell Sams" reported grounds committee chair, John Colgan.

John also presented bids for fertilization and minor pruning work that needs to be done on the Cemetery Oak.

### Mystery of the Crypt\*

During the wall stabilization process, several pieces of a crypt were uncovered in the area next to the wall behind the Chapel site. There is much speculation about who the crypt



may have been for. The GPS survey reveals the site as a possible grave. Based on a list from incriptions on tombstones copied in 1932 and printed in the S. C.

Magazine, this could be the grave of William Sams, Jr.

who died in 1817 and has been reported as buried at Dataw. Colin Brooker, advisor to the DHF, indicated that the crypt design suggested its date might be about 1820. There is also some thought that the crypt might be for Sarah Fripp Sams, first wife of Lewis R. Sams, who died in 1825. Stay tuned!

### **Final Notes**

Preliminary discussions are being held on improving the Clubhouse upstairs display areas. A proposal will be made to the DIC about effective use of this space for artifact display.

The Publicity Committee is seeking innovative ways to communicate DHF activities, promote projects and events and provide more meaningful programs for members.

\*Dataw's tabby ruins were featured in the January/February issue of <u>Southern Accents Magazine</u>\*

### 2006 DHF Members

### Three New Membership Categories

In order to more appropriately identify our growing list of members and supporters, three new categories of memberships have been defined. These categories recognize major financial contributions, Dataw ancestral connections or valued service in the preservation of Dataw's heritage.

- Lifetime Members. Those whose lifetime contribution to the DHF is \$2,500 or more.
- •Honorary Members. Limited to those with an ancestral connection to Dataw Island. This includes Sams family descendants and family descendents of other prior owners of Dataw Island.
- Friends of DHF. Those who have made a significant contribution to or have a special connection to DHF.

### Lifetime Members

Arthur R. & Martha Sams, Jr.



Arthur is direct paternal great, great grandson of B. B. Sams

### **Honorary Members**

Dr. Charles & Jeanne (Sams) Aimar\*
Charles & Virginia Aimar
Susan Sams Allen
Therese Colquhoun
Marvin & Cilla Dukes
John & Jeanne Rogers
Dr. Larry & Margot Rowland\*\*\*
T. Reeve & Betty Sams

#### Friends of DHF

Dr. Herb & Beryl Arnold Sonny & Mary Bishop Colin & Jane (Bruce) Brooker Lois Cochrane\*\* Jerry & Linda Hubbard Dr. Eric & Carol Poplin Rick & Mary Wightman\*\*\*

\* also Benefactors

\*\* also Patrons

\*\*\* also Members

### Benefactors

Jackson & Mel Brown Thomas & Cathy Crocker James & Anne Kistler John & Anita Mahoney John & Cece Megrue

#### **Patrons**

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### 2006 DHF Members

Continued

Dr. Peter & Ruthie King Warren & Babs Kinsman Elizabeth Kirk James & Marilynn Koerber Kenneth & Peggy Lantelme James & Sally Marks Richard & Dottie Marsh Ben & Judy McAuley John & Kathleen McFall William & Jacqueline McMahon George & Jean Morgan Eugene & Barbara Mowry, Jr. James & Brenda Norris Edmund & Helene Noves Thomas Oliver Victor & Gloria Otley William & Josie Paddock Douglas & Sheila Parker Peter & Barbara Payne Peter & Anna Pearks William & Lynn Peterson Robert & Micki Pogachnick Rod & Marcia Rohrbaugh Robert & Phyllis Rose Charles & Collette Russell J. Wood Rutter Robert & Barbara Sanderson Kelson & Susan Slayman John E. & Mary Stefan William & Sally Timms John & Michele Weaber Conard & Nancy White John & Susan Zankowski Fred & Dorothy Zinser

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Bruce & Carol Anderson
Charles & Sue Asselin
Ronald & Elaine Bailey
Al & Janet Baker
Robert & Eva Baker, Jr.
Gen. John & Ann Ballantyne
Thomas & Carol Baxter
Jim & Trudie Bazemore
Peter & Susan Beekman
Larry & Veronica Beidelman
Arthur & Joanne Bent
Edward & Pamela Berg
D. Bleckrie & L. Voght
William & Nanette Bopp

John & Vivian Boyle Ralph & Laura Bricker Victor & Nancy Brinkman Calvin & Paula Campbell William & Gretchen Carroll Donald & Jane Charbonnier George & Susan Cheatham Roy & Joan Clelland Dr. Harold & Juanita Collings Ellen Corbett Thomas & Judy Costikyan Philip & Jane Covault Katie Craigmile Jack & Vickie Cummings Nils & Joan Dahl James & Cece Danigelis Coreen Deering Barry & Patricia DeSatnick Jim & Susan Dickson David & Pam Didier Earl & Joan Dietz Robert & Shirley Dillon John & Barbara Dittmer David & Holly Dolan Phillip & Diana Eisenhart Bob & Gay Farmer Jay & Jeanette Fickes George & Linda Fiorella Joseph Flanagan James & Jeanne Foerstner William & Nancy Foley Robbie Foote Francis & Linda Forcione Robert & Connie Frenzel John & Margo Freund Jimmy & Janet Friend May Gannon Anne Gilbert Jim & Bette Goettle Richard & Mariann Golobic Robert & Sonny Googins Alex & Lee Greene Robert & Roberta Gunderson Morris & Irene Guthrie Frank & Linda Hager John & Martha Hamilton Clifford & Grace Harrigan William & Jackie Harris Connie Haskell Ted & Sally Haskell James & Harriet Hawkins Robert & Sally Haxby

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## 2006 DHF Members

Gardner & Norma Miller Theodore & Pat Mitchell Thomas & Gilda Molzow Roy & Margaret Moore III Bill & Carol Morgan Jim & Carol Morrissev Arthur & Barbara Morrow Nancy Myers Bob & Dorothy North William & Patricia Noves Douglas & Denise Ogden Jenifer Olney John & Bonnita Payne Jonathan & Marilyn Peck Robert & Anne Perlitz William & Jan Perry Eric & Donna Reischel Mary Royalty Doris Ryan Jay & Anne Saravo Harry & Lynda Scarfe William & Dot Schaphorst Drew & Joan Schrader William & Joan Schwartz François & Barbara Seguin Raymond & Maxine Servaes Greg & Betty Shorey **Betsy Sinks** Robert & Caroline Sloan Ron & Kay Smith Justin & Jean Smith Robert & Claire Spengler Don & Kay Summers Walter & Marlene Terpin Fargo & Nina Thompson Barry & Maddie Trevor Gretchen & Bruce Wager Robert & Mary Walmsley Richard Warden Taylor & Robin Weeman Thomas & Ellie White James & Dorothy White Fred & Nancy Willson Kenneth & Bonnie Wright Lilyan Wright David & Beverly Yoder

Watch the Dataw e-mail for John's specific topic and menu details. Sign up with Darlene now!

### Fireside Chat

with

Dr. John M. McCardell, Jr.

President Emeritus, Middlebury College (and noted lecturer)



Wednesday, May 17 6 p.m. \$26.40 Enjoy a delicious Southern dinner and an interesting lecture on Southern history

When John McCardell was named the 15th president of Middlebury College in 1992, he was only the second president in the almost 200-year history of the College to be selected from the ranks of the faculty.

A 1971 graduate of Washington and Lee University, he did his graduate work at Johns Hopkins and then at Harvard where he received his Ph.D. in history in 1976. That same year he joined the history department at the distinguished Vermont liberal arts college.

During the past 29 years, in addition to his teaching responsibilities, McCardell has been dean for academic development and planning, dean of the faculty, provost and vice president for academic affairs and acting president.

McCardell brought to the president's office an important understanding and commitment to the role of the teacher and scholar in academic life. He continued to teach despite the demands of the presidency. McCardell's specialty is United States history in the 19th century with special emphasis on the Old South and and on American historiography. In 1977, he received the Allan Nevins Prize from the Society of American Historians for the best written dissertation on an American subject. His dissertation was later published under the title of *The Idea of a Southern Nation*, a book that, after 25 years, continues to be one of the most cogent discussions of the rise of Southern nationalists and Southern nationalism in the mid-19th century.

In honor of his service as president, the board of trustees named Bicentennial Hall, the College's science center, "John M. McCardell Jr. Bicentennial Hall," created an endowed professorship that will bear his name upon his retirement, and established an endowed fund, the "John and Bonnie McCardell Scholarship," which will support a student or students from the South who attend the College.

In 2001, McCardell was named "Vermonter of the Year" by the *Burlington Free Press*. The Maryland native's professional memberships and his grants and fellowships are too numerous to mention. John and his wife Bonnie live in Cornwall, but enjoy a portion of their winters in Beaufort. They have two sons.

Many of you enjoyed John's interesting and informative sessions on <u>The Old South</u> during the USCB Osher Lifelong Learning Institute winter term and his spring term sessions on <u>The Causes of the Civil War</u>. **He was outstanding.** 

## "The Iceman Cometh"

### by John Colgan

Behind the main house at the B.B. Sams Plantation ruins, there is a small tabby structure with a unique and rare tabby roof. This is the Cooling House. It is said to have been designed by B.B. Sams himself to store large blocks of ice used to cool the dairy products being produced in the Dairy Barn next door. The thick tabby walls and roof served to insulate the Cooling House from the South Carolina summer sun. It also had a large, double-walled, tight fitting door and a below-ground-level floor with a pit dug out under it for drainage as the ice melted. The ice itself was insulated with sawdust to slow the melting process. There were shelves lining the walls to hold the dairy products which included milk, cream and butter.

But where did the ice come from? This is a curious tale of one man's entrepreneurship spurred on by economic necessity and good old Yankee ingenuity!

On September 3, 1783, the treaty at Paris formally brought to a close the American Revolution and ushered in a time of uncertain political and economic vacuums that overspread the gap left by the termination of war. Peace with England had meant the denial of American ships and trade into the British West Indies, and America was thus obliged to search for new methods of commerce, new ports of call, and for new products to be exported.

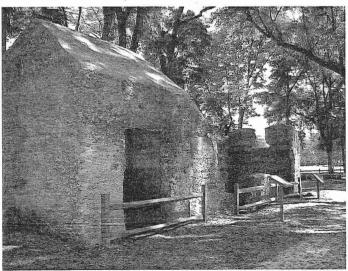
The harvesting of ice from freshwater ponds surrounding Boston had begun as a local wintertime industry. Eventually, there were nine main sources of ice around Boston: Fresh Pond, Cambridge; Smith's Pond, Arlington; Spy Pond, Arlington; Sandy Pond, Ayer; Horn Pond, Woburn; Lake Quannapowitt, Wakefield; Haggett's Pond, Andover; Suntaug Lake, Lynnfield; and Wenham Lake, Wenham.

No one knows when ice began to enjoy commercial value as a summertime luxury in Massachusetts. A tombstone inscription for a man named William Fletcher, born about 1770, claims that he was the first man to carry "ice into Boston for merchandise" but it was left to Frederic Tudor to carry the idea to a logical summit.

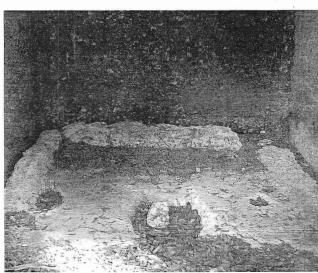
Frederic Tudor was born in Boston in 1783. He spurned the chance to be educated at Harvard as his brothers had been and from the early age of thirteen years he had occupied himself with business pursuits.

Tudor attended a party in 1805 at which someone suggested to him, somewhat tongue-in-cheek, that he start a business exporting ice to foreign ports. No one had expected him to take the suggestion seriously, but Tudor ignored the obvious difficulties involved and, undismayed, set about to bring the scheme to fruition. Tudor

Continued on next page->



The Dairy and Cold Room



Looking Inside the Cold Room

#### "The Iceman Cometh" Continued

experimented with and refined his business, which involved cutting the ice, insulating it with sawdust and transporting it to Boston, purchasing and outfitting a ship to carry the ice, establishing insulated warehousing facilities at the various ports of call and finally, timely promotional efforts to sell the product before it "self-liquidated."

Tudor realized that many of the ships arriving in Boston Harbor came from Charleston and Savannah laden with cotton and indigo bound for the textile mills that were popping up throughout New England. With no return cargo, these ships would then load on ballast rock for the return trip. Tudor proposed to substitute his blocks of ice as ballast in return for a very favorable shipping rate. The sea captains were quick to see the advantage of loading a paying cargo and agreed to the arrangement.

In 1817, Tudor embarked on the ship *Milo* from Boston to Charleston, South Carolina where he built an ice house at Fitzsimon's Wharf. The ice house was a double-shelled structure, twenty five feet square on its outside dimension, nineteen feet square on the interior, and sixteen feet high. It held about 150 tons of ice (an average shipload). Ice was sold in quantities from one pound to 500 pounds and retailed for about 8 ½ cents a pound.

In 1818, Tudor established a similar ice trade at Savannah, Georgia as well.

While it is not certain whether the Sams family shipped its cotton and indigo to Charleston or Savannah, one can rest assured that the small coastal ships which visited the Sams Plantation dock at Big Landing from time to time, unloaded "crystal blocks of Yankee coldness" before taking on bales of "Sea Island cotton."

#### Sources:

- 1. "Frederic Tudor, the Ice King", Harvard Business School Working Knowledge 9/1/03.
- 2. "Crystal Blocks of Yankee Coldness" The Development of the Massachusetts Ice Trade from Frederic Tudor to Wenham Lake 1806-1886 by Philip Chadwick Foster Smith from The Essex Historical Collections 1961.

