

# WILDERNESS TO PARADISE



Significant Events in the Evolution of

DATHA to DATAW

by

The Dataw Historic Foundation

Photos

Reproductions

Text

By **Herb Arnold**

**October 27, 2000**

As the high ocean level, left by the melting ice of the Ice Age, receded, it left, along the coast of South Carolina, sandy islands unprotected from the ravages of ocean storms. These are the barrier islands such as Isle of Palms, Pritchard Island, Fripp Island, and Hunting Island to name but a few. Shoreward of these islands were other islands, slightly less vulnerable. These were the dune remnants. Such an island is Dataw. It was a complete wilderness whose only inhabitants were wild creatures. There were no natives, and there never have been any natives. The only human inhabitants have always been immigrants. For, as the waters receded, a land bridge developed between Asia and Alaska. About fifteen thousand years ago, stone age people crossed that bridge into the Aleutian Islands and entered the North American Continent. Gradually they drifted south until they occupied what is now The United States. Through the Paleo-Indian Era they had stone tools and fire, and took to game hunting. In the Archaic Period they developed cutting tools such as knives, axes, and arrowheads, and started pottery. They started to acquire and maintain things, and villages began to spring up. They grew beans, melons, squash, and corn from which they got hominy, succotash, and yes, grits. This was happening through their Woodland Period as they approached the Contact Period, when the Europeans would appear. The predominant group of Indians in these parts were the Muskogeans from the creek region of middle Georgia. They were known as Creeks. The low country was the edge of Creek culture and the largest group was the cannibalistic Yemassee. This was the low country scene, along with bears, wolves, alligators, poisonous snakes, white tail deer, etc when the Europeans came into the local picture.



By the 1500s Spain had established dominance on the high seas. Their Galleons were everywhere victorious, and their troops conquered all in their path. The Spanish discovery of the New World and the founding of the first European colony in America at Santo Domingo in 1496, launched expeditions of Spanish “conquistadores” across North and South America during the 16th century. Sailing west to Mexico, with the prevailing winds, in order to gather treasures to take back to Spain, their ships encountered the Gulf Stream. Under the influence of the Stream they found it relatively natural to sail northeast. They were taking shiploads of gold and silver out of Mexico and South America and carrying these treasures to fill the royal coffers in Spain. Among the first of those expeditions was the discovery of “La Florida” by Ponce de Leon in 1512. This discovery

prompted subsequent voyages to the North American coast, north of the Bahama Islands, and was to play a role in the history of Dataw.



In their colony at Santo Domingo where, with natives as slave laborers, they had formed vast sugar cane plantations, all was not well. Unused to hard work, the natives were dropping like flies and, coupled with their lack of resistance to the diseases brought from Europe by their conquerors, their numbers were on a rapid decline. The Spaniards had to find replacements.

In 1514 Pedro de Salazar, carried north by the Gulf Stream, to the “land of the giants”, for these American Indians were larger than any of the Europeans, picked up five hundred Indians and took them back as slaves to Espanola

Now they knew the way. In 1521, fully one hundred years before the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock, on a voyage of discovery for settlement, Captain Francisco Gordillo came into Port Royal’s harbor on the birthday of Saint Elena. Hence our name of St. Helena. Being aware that back on Espanola, otherwise known as Hispaniola, they were in need of slaves, Gordillo enticed the local natives on board his ships, under the pretext of offering a feast. No doubt this was the first offering of Frogmore Stew. Once the gullible natives were on board he weighed anchor and was off to Santo Domingo. The voyage was rough, and many of the Indians failed to make the passage. Among those who survived was one Francisco (he had assumed the Captain’s name) Chicora. Chicora was a savvy individual. He not only attached himself to Vasquez D’Ayllon, Gordillo’s superior, but he also embraced Catholicism. Chicora was a teller of great tales, and he not only told of the riches of his land but also of great chieftains. Outstanding among these was one King Datha, giant king of the Duhare Tribe. So outstanding were his tales that he was taken by Vasquez D’Ayllon to Spain where he appeared at court and repeated his stories. It was thus that the “Chicora Legend” was born, and the name Datha first appeared. His story, with the name Datha, is recorded in De Orbe Novo (The New World) by Pietro Martiere D’Angchiera (Peter Martyr) published in Spain in 1526.

One hundred and sixty years pass, and it is now the 1680s. Hernando Desoto has marched overland through Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Alabama, to the Mississippi. French Huguenots under Jean Ribault come to what is now Parris Island hoping to plunder Spanish ships taking gold and treasures to Spain. France's Charlesfort has been built, and then destroyed by the Spanish. Francis Drake's arrival in 1586 was the beginning of the end for the Spanish colonies, and the beginning of the English colonies. In the 1670s Indian traders were spreading south from Charleston. This gave rise to the first written reference to Dataw Island. Caleb Westbrook, a Scot, established an Indian Trading post on Dataw. In 1682 a warrant was issued to him by the lords proprietors. Ultimately, Westbrook was murdered by an Indian.

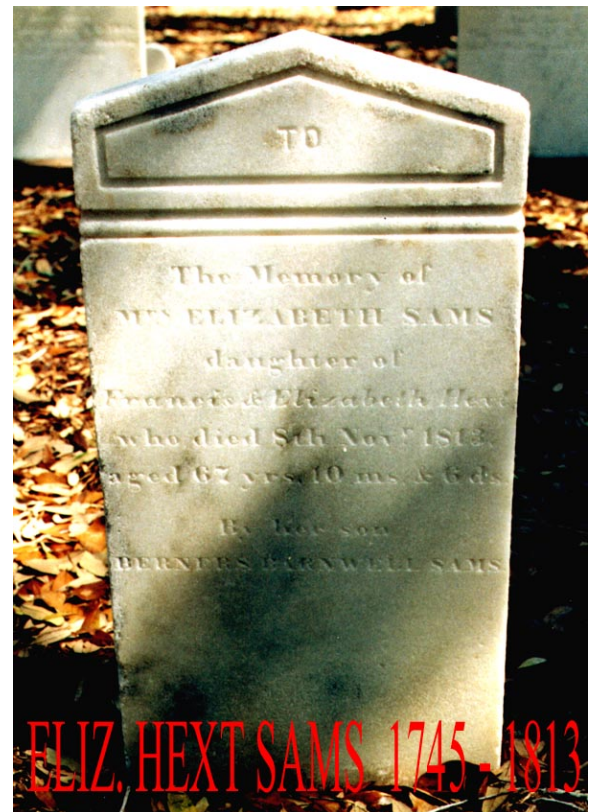
Charles Odingsell received in 1698 a warrant for an island called Westbrook or Datha. In 1702 he signed over his right to this island to Joseph Boone. The Boones sold Datha to Anne Wigg in 1755 listing it as 1,170 acres. Considering the rate of erosion, especially along the Morgan River, this is consistent with the present amount of land. At her death in 1770 she left the island to her son Lewis Reeve.



Lewis Reeve started to plant the island in indigo. The area was prospering. Most of the wealth was derived from rice. South Carolina was one of the wealthiest states. In wealth and sophistication Charleston was second only to Philadelphia. Rice, however, requires much fresh water. The mainland planters could dam streams for the water and flood fields. Their fields are still visible in the areas away from the shore. The sea islands lacking supplies of fresh water, had to turn to something else, and they turned to indigo. Their market for indigo was Britain's mills, and they were doing well, but The Revolution put an end to sales of indigo for the colonists. The English turned to Madras, India, for the dyes they needed.

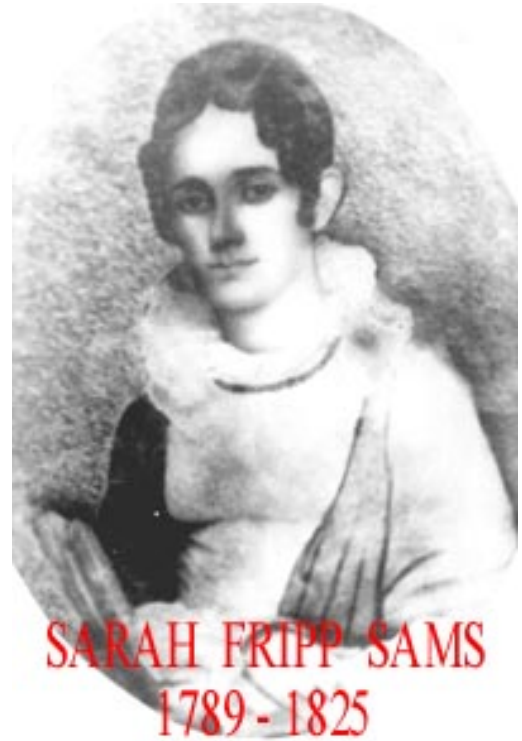
Lewis Reeve, never having married, in 1774 left his property, including Datha, to his sisters Sarah Gibbes and Ann Carson. Sarah and her husband (also stepbrother) Robert Gibbes gained control of the property, and in 1783 sold it to William Sams. William Sams was the youngest son of Robert Sams of Somerset England and Bridget Barnwell Sams. He was a grandson of Colonel John 'Tuscarora Jack' Barnwell the Indian fighter, who is buried in the cemetery at St. Helena Church in Beaufort.

William Sams started to plant indigo, but, after the introduction of Anguila black seed cotton in 1787, he switched to this superior, long, soft fiber cotton. This grew well in the low country. It was soon known as Sea Island Cotton, and he was among the first to grow it. The entry of Whitney's cotton gin on the scene in 1793 was a tremendous impetus to the cotton industry. However, it tore the long soft fibers of the Sea Island Cotton, and therefore was not used, it was a great boon to regular cotton growers. In the 1800s when COTTON BECAME KING regular cotton was selling for \$.10 to \$.15 a pound while Sea Island Cotton was selling for \$.59. Datha was one of the earliest and most successful Sea Island Cotton plantations in South Carolina, and South Carolina was the richest state in the 1790s. BUT, cotton growing is very labor intensive, and requires many slaves. The number of slaves rose dramatically.



William died in 1798 leaving his property to his wife and his three younger sons. The three older sons were already established on their property. Lewis Reeve (1784-1856), Berners Barnwell (1787-1855), and Edward Hext (1790-1837) were to be educated and brought up “in the best manner”, and, upon attaining their majority, receive real or personal property equivalent in value to that which had already been devised upon the eldest son, William.

Lewis and Berners bought out Edwards interest, and divided the island approximately in half, with Lewis assuming the north parcel and Berners the south, which contained the 'old house'.

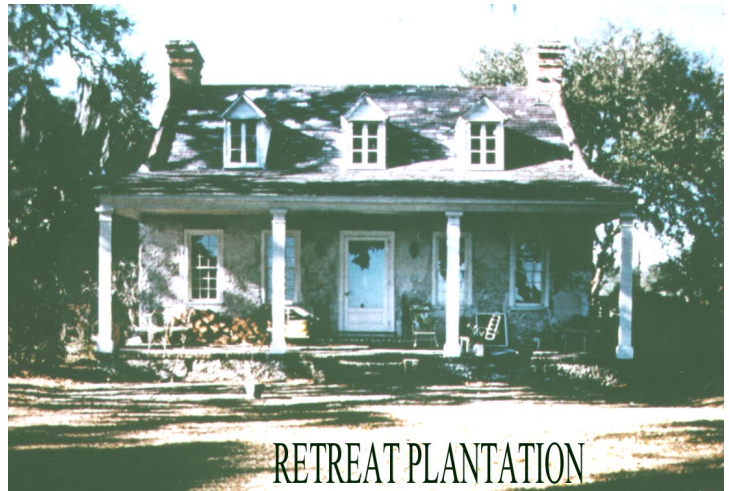


Lewis was born on Datha in 1784. He went to Beaufort College, then north to Brown University where he graduated in 1806. He was a successful planter and businessman, and a leader in the community. He had twelve children by two wives, all raised on Datha. His first wife was Sarah Fripp daughter of Thomas and Martha Hann Fripp. Sarah died on 8/12/1825 at the age of thirty five and is buried in the Dataw Cemetery.

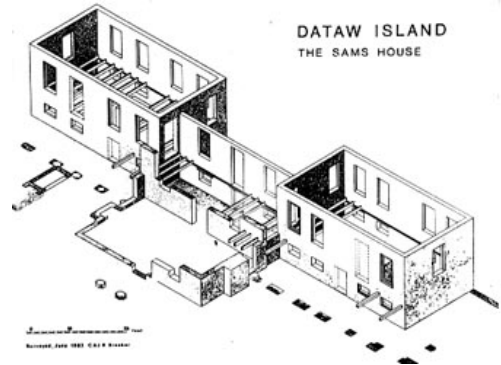
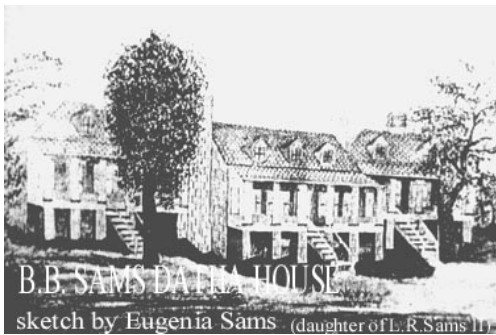
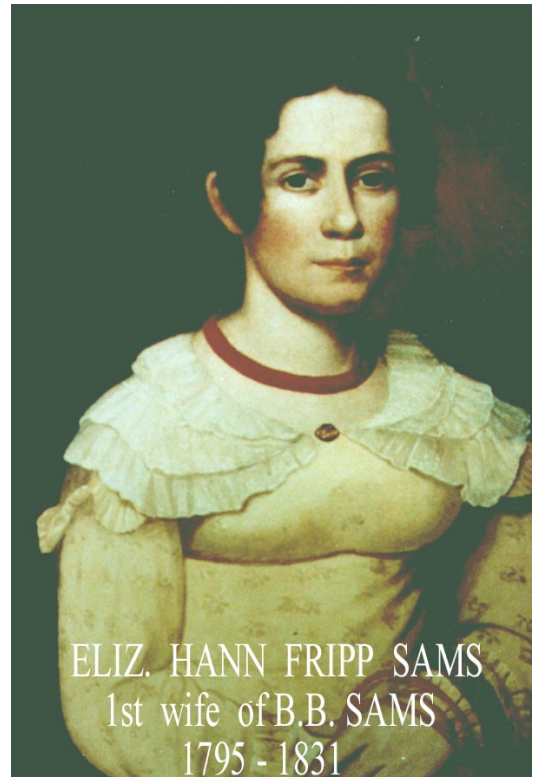
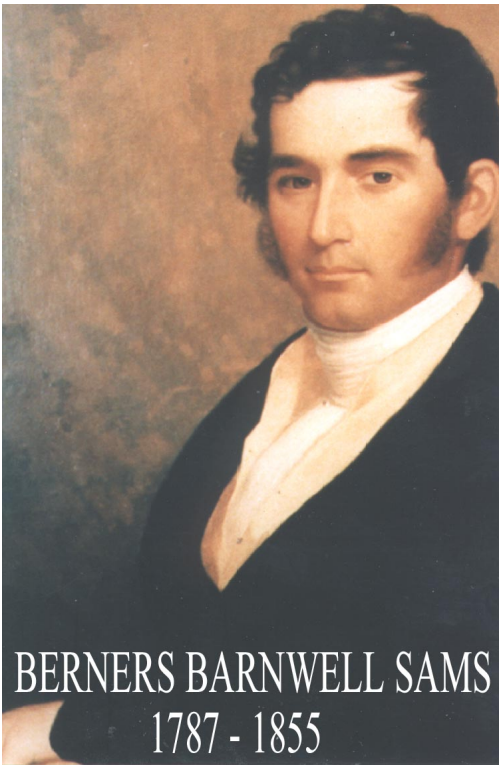
Lewis Reeve married second Francis Fuller daughter of Thomas Fuller, Jr. and Elizabeth Middleton Fuller. During his marriage to Frances, Lewis Reeve left St. Helena Episcopal Church and joined The Beaufort Baptist Church where he, Frances, and a daughter Sarah are buried. Erosion caused by the Morgan River left only a small tabby mound of his plantation home, in the river by the 14<sup>th</sup> fairway of the Morgan River Golf Course.



Berners Barnwell Sams was born 5/26/1787 on Datha. Having inherited the southern half of the island, he lived in the “old house” described in the memoirs of his son, the Rev James Julius Sams. This house, existing at the time William and Elizabeth Hext Sams were living, was probably built by either Lewis Reeve or his mother Sarah Gibbes in the 1770s. It no doubt resembled Retreat Plantation.



B. B. Sams married Elizabeth Hann Fripp on 11/5/1812. She was the sister of Sarah Fripp, Lewis Reeve Sams' first wife. Though B.B. Sams was not as prominent as L.R. Sams he was, none the less, a medical



doctor and a highly successful planter.

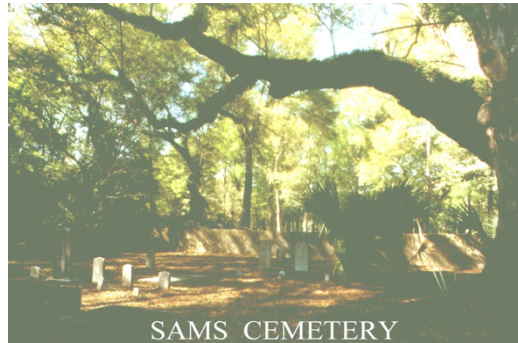




owner from the slaves as much as possible. Northwest of the main house was an orange orchard. The Sams were the first to grow oranges in South Carolina and they were successful in the endeavor.



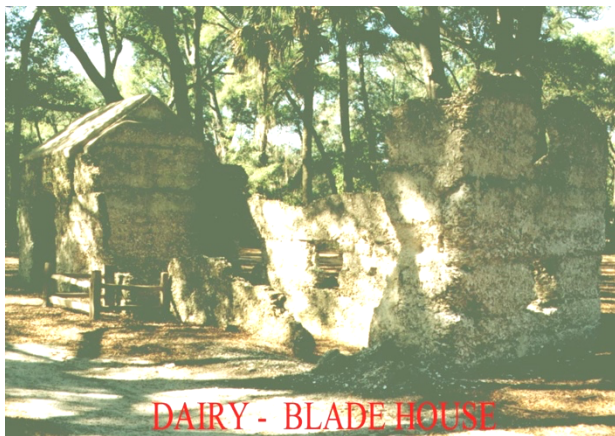
KITCHEN FIREPLACE



SAMS CEMETERY

Beyond that was the Sams' Cemetery probably started by B.B. Sams at the death of William in 1798. Along with the cemetery was the chapel. The chapel was constructed perhaps as a response to the visit of transient Episcopal Missionaries in the 1830s.

Each morning B.B. Sams would conduct religious and instructional meetings for the benefit of his family and household slaves. B.B. and both of his wives are buried in this cemetery.

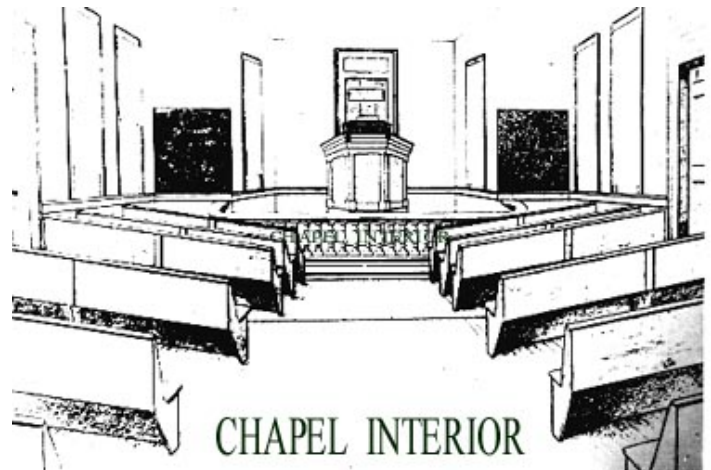


DAIRY - BLADE HOUSE

Directly north of the Main House is the dairy / blade house. This is the only ruin with a roof intact. In the dairy, milk was processed by the females of the family to produce butter and cheese. Old records attest to the rather large amount of butter produced on Datha. Slaves were considered not clean enough to handle such a chore. A cool environment was possible due to the thickness of construction and the acquisition of ice. Ice was imported



CEMETERY AND CHAPEL  
ca 1833, sketch by Eugenia Sams ?



CHAPEL INTERIOR

from the New England States by ship and well packed in saw dust. The remainder of this combination

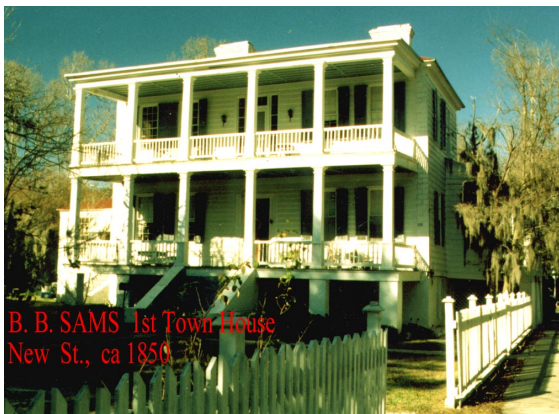
building was the blade house which was used for the storage of cornstalks and other fodder. East of the blade house was the barn and, beyond that, the stables.



All of the Sams were intelligent, educated, hardworking, and prosperous. Life on a plantation, especially for the wife, was a lonely, isolated, unhappy existence. The picture of slaves depicted in Hollywood productions as happy go lucky individuals singing at their work is a myth. There were no adults the master's wife could even talk with. For these reasons, and also because summer on the sea islands brought increased risk of cholera and malaria, as owners became more wealthy they tended to build fine homes back in Beaufort where they could, to a degree, escape not only the diseases but also the high heat and humidity. Here, in the summer, the families could mix with others of their social and economic station. The planter families also educated their children at the many schools in Beaufort. Because of the



rhythm of plantation life and the presence of the planter families in town during the summer months, the school year was reversed from what is customary, today. During the ante-bellum years, Beaufort schools were conducted from May through November and vacations were from November through April, on the island plantations.



In the 1850s Lewis Reeve and Berners Barnwell Sams were at their zenith. Lewis Reeve was the owner of over one hundred and fifty slaves and more than 4,000 acres of land. Berners Barnwell had over one hundred and fifty slaves and more than 5,000 acres of land. Obviously they each owned land other than Datha. In addition they each had handsome town houses. Lewis Reeve first had the Hext house which he inherited from his mother Elizabeth Hext Sams. In the 50s he built an expensive house on Bay St. This house is now a fine B & B. At the same time Berners Barnwell Sams built first on New St. then on Laurens. These homes are still standing and in fine condition.



On March 15<sup>th</sup>, 1855 Berners Barnwell Sams died at Datha, and is buried in the Sams cemetery there. Lewis Reeve died December 21<sup>st</sup>, 1856 in Beaufort, and is buried in the churchyard of the Beaufort Baptist Church. Upon their deaths Datha was inherited by their sons. Via



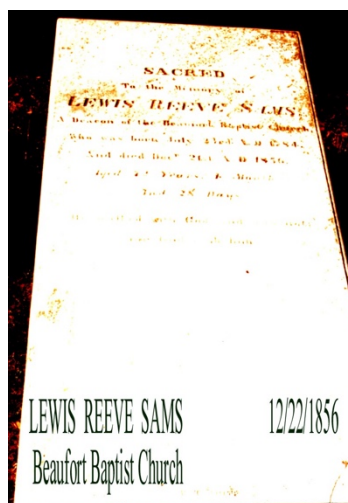
intrafamilial transactions the Rev. James Julius Sams and Horace Hann Sams, both sons of B.B. Sams, ended up with all of The Island. Cotton continued to be the major crop, although, they also raised cattle, sheep, hogs, and produced butter, wool, sweet potatoes, peas, beans, and fruit.

The death of Lewis Reeve and Berners Barnwell Sams spelled the end of the stable prosperity the area had been experiencing. In 1850, at the Nashville

Convention,

born. The Southern a constitutional

Republican “Free Soil” party rising in the North, abolitionism gaining ground in the 1850s, sea rally around the cause of secession and southern the home of South Carolina’s most radical Barnwell Rhett, who was related through the Sams brothers of Datha Island. At the time forming and training local militia for war. In



southern nationalism was Rights Association declared right to secede. With the and with the spectre of island planters began to nationalism. Beaufort was politician, Senator Robert Barnwell family to the Robert G. Barnwell was 1852 they backed away

from secession because cotton was experiencing a second boom. It was at this time that many homes in Beaufort were being built or rebuilt. In 1852 Beaufort College was built, and in 1851 The Arsenal was

rebuilt. Beaufort was prospering. Most of the Beaufortonians sided with the Cooperationists who wanted to do as the other Southern States decided.

The political crisis was resolved when Governor Pickens of South Carolina convened the legislators in the Exchange Building in Charleston and called for secession. R.B. Rhett was one of the five legislators who wrote the Ordinances of Secession on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 1860. The Beaufort Secession House had no part in the writing of these papers. This house was owned by Edmund Rhett, brother of Robert Barnwell Rhett. Edmund was the local leader of the Fireaters, and mayor of Beaufort. In February of 1861 a ship bringing provisions to Ft. Sumter was fired upon by Citadel Cadets. On April 12<sup>th</sup>, 1861 General Beauregard ordered the bombardment of Fort Sumter, and the war was on.



In the fall of '61, Beryl Arnold's maternal grandfather, Col. Henry Spurr Tafft came to Beaufort. Ultimately he had a family here, and owned 1,200 acres on Seaside Rd. on the Island of St. Helena. But on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 1861 he was here in the company of Commodore Samuel DuPont and a big armada of Union Warships. Together they were about to make history. The North's "Anaconda Plan" was to blockade the coast and seize the Mississippi. DuPont's goal was to set up a coaling and repair base on the South Atlantic Coast. To this end he assembled, at Hampton Roads VA, a fleet of nearly one hundred vessels of all classes. DuPont led this diverse group in his frigate Wabash. The army sent along a fleet of 25 transports with 16,297 soldiers. Some 600 of these troops were U.S. Marines. Leaving Hampton Roads on October 29<sup>th</sup> they ran into a violent storm as they rounded Cape Hatteras. This storm was almost their undoing, but after many harrowing episodes and much heroism on the part of the men they arrived at their destination. On November 6<sup>th</sup> they were anchored ten miles off Port Royal Harbor. The Port was defended by two earthen works: Fort Walker at the north end of Hilton Head Island, and Fort Beauregard to the north at Bay Point. On November 7<sup>th</sup>, 1861 shortly before ten A M, with Commodore DuPont and his flagship Wabash in the lead, the Union Fleet steamed an elliptical course between the two forts, discharging salvo after salvo till the forts dipped their flags in surrender. The victory was complete. This encounter was said to have been the largest amphibious assault ever in the Western Hemisphere.

With the fall of Port Royal the plantation era ended. The whites left and the blacks stayed. The Sams families split up, some going to Florida, Atlanta, Texas. James Julius went to Maryland; Lewis Reeve Jr. took a group to Galveston. The town of Beaufort was

spared the devastation wrought by General Sherman, since it was headquarters for the U.S. Army, Department of the South.

GALVESTON GROUP



PHOEBE SAMS  
daughter of L.R.Sams II

In 1863 Dathaw was

confiscated by the U.S. Government for non payment of taxes. At auction in 1864 many persons acquired portions of The Island. Many blacks lived on The Island as tenant farmers. Around 1876, either by accident or design, B.B. Sams home was destroyed by fire. It was reported that there was rejoicing on the Island of St. Helena.

The Island remained fragmented till 1905 when Gustave Sanders became the sole proprietor, with the exception of five acres, belonging to Capt. George Crofut, at Mink Point in Gleason’s Landing area. It remained like this until 1918 when, at auction, Samuel Stoney purchased Datha and united The Island by buying the five acres at Mink Point for \$25. For the first time since 1863 Datha had one owner.



In the spring of 1924 events were transpiring in Montclair, N.J. which would have a profound effect on the history of



Dathaw. Frank Gilbreth, author of “Cheaper by the Dozen”, and scientific expert in time/motion study and its application to industry, had recently died, and his widow Lillian was planning a tour of Europe to fulfill his speaking obligations. Dr. Lillian Gilbreth was

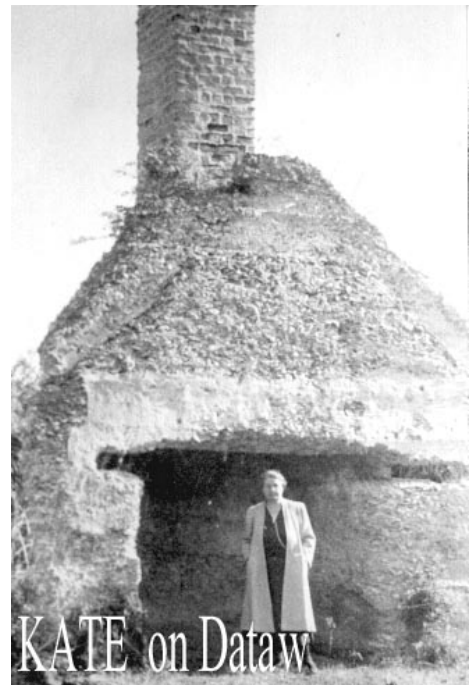
also a noted engineer. Together she and Frank had pioneered Motion Studies for many years. For this business/pleasure trip she arranged, as a secretary and traveling companion, to be accompanied by a friend,



"LIBBY" SANDERS  
ca 1936

neighbor, and recent graduate of Smith College, Elizabeth “Libby” Sanders. Elizabeth Sanders had strong family ties to Beaufort. Her father, Lawrence Sanders, was descended from ten generations of South Carolinians. His father, Joseph O’Hear Sanders, born in Charleston, was a lawyer and a veteran of the Confederate Army. Following military service as paymaster aboard the U.S.S. Kearsarge, during the Spanish American War, Lawrence returned to Beaufort He was employed as a book-keeper for the Port Royal Railroad. D. Appleton of NYC was a director and a principle stockholder, in the railroad. Lawrence married Harriet Adelaide Waterhouse, daughter of Beaufort merchant and cotton factor, George Waterhouse, in 1900. Following their wedding, Lawrence and Addie moved to New York City where he had accepted an accounting position with the D. Appleton Publishing Co. At the time of

his death, in 1935, Lawrence Sanders was the Treasurer and vice president of the company. Addie died in 1910 leaving her husband with 10 year old Libby and her two younger brothers. When he remarried, he moved his family to Montclair, N.J. However, Libby and her brothers, Larry and George, spent many summers of their youth, in Beaufort, with their Sanders/Waterhouse relatives. They often stayed with their grandmother, Harriet Waterhouse (G.W. died in 1894) and Aunt Mary in their Bay St. house that their grandfather, George bought in 1866. Four generations were raised, there, before it sold, in 1978. On June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1924 Libby Sanders and Lillian Gilbreth embarked on a Cunard Liner for Europe. After the first day at sea Libby wrote in her diary that she had “met a fascinating person. A jolly and most adorable person who knows all about building houses.” During the rest of the trip they became fast friends. Libby was offered a job by this woman. The “jolly person” was Kate Gleason. Libby Sanders convinced Kate Gleason to visit the sea



KATE on Dataw

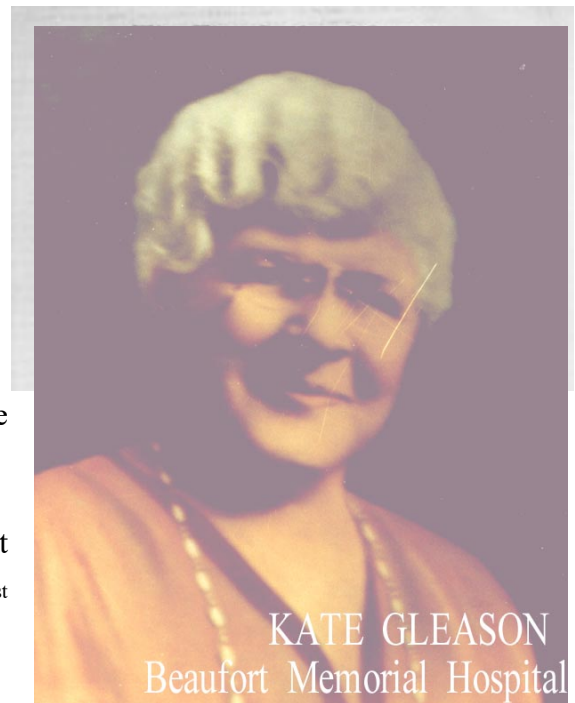
islands and, as a result, Kate Gleason became very involved in Beaufort and the Low Country.

H. Arnold – October 2000

Kate Gleason, daughter of an Irish immigrant who, at 12, was penniless when he left Tipperary for Canada with his mother in 1848. Three years later they moved to booming Rochester, N.Y. Kate was born in 1865 and at 11 was at work in her father's business, The Gleason Gear Works. At 14 she was The Gleason Works' bookkeeper. In 1884 she became the first woman to enter Cornell's school of engineering. Before her first year was over she had to return home because of financial difficulties at the Gear Works. In 1886, aged 20, she made her first "road trip" to sell machines.

By 1890 she was the Secretary-Treasurer of The Gleason Works and its chief sales representative. In the years ahead she would become

- The first woman in Who's Who of Mechanical Engineering
- The first female to be president of a National Bank
- The first woman elected to the Rochester Chamber of Commerce
- The first female receiver in bankruptcy
- The first female in the German Vrein Deutscher Ingenieuren
- She designed and built a model community of 100 homes in Sausalito CAL. These were low-cost, poured concrete, six room houses, along with a golf course, country club, and park. The units sold for as low as \$4,000 and could be purchased for a small down payment and \$40. a month.
- Had a summer home in Septmonts, France where she built a public library and picture theatre dedicated to the 1<sup>st</sup> division AEF.





- In Beaufort she made many donations for parks, and the land on which stands Beaufort Memorial Hospital.

In January of 1928 she bought Dataw from the Stoney heirs for \$ 15,000. Probably during the years Datha was owned by Kate Gleason, and under the direction of overseer Horace Sams, the original bridge onto The Island was built. This bridge was destroyed by a 1940 hurricane and rebuilt by the Rowlands.



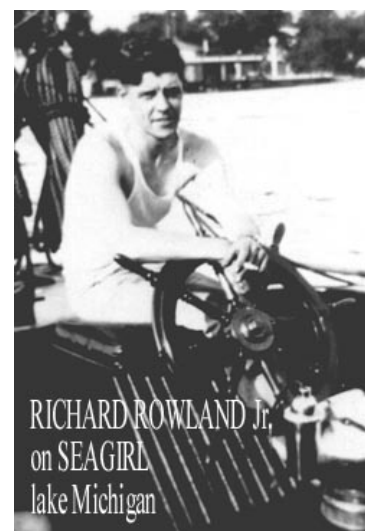
FIRST DATAW BRIDGE  
by Horace Sams  
overseer for Kate Gleason

She died January 9<sup>th</sup>, 1933 at Rochester where she had returned for the holidays from her winter home in Beaufort, S.C. Among her bequests was “property known as Dawtaw Island” to Elizabeth G. Sanders of Montclair N.J. “Libby” Sanders had been her secretary, general factotum, and companion at home and abroad for nine years.



RICHARD ROWLAND Jr.  
Assistant Chief Engineer  
SS Leviathan

Libby Sanders and Richard H. Rowland Jr. first met while she was at Smith and he was at the University of Michigan. But it was not until years later that anything came of the meeting. Born in Olean NY, Richard graduated in 1924. He took his degrees in Naval Architecture and Engineering to the Merchant Marine, and was employed by the US Mail Line aboard the SS Leviathan serving as Assistant Chief Engineer for several years before working in



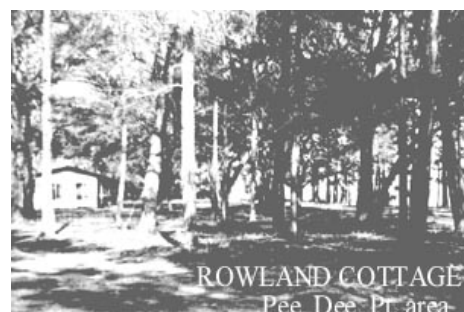
RICHARD ROWLAND Jr.  
on SEAGIRL  
lake Michigan

Chicago for the Consolidated Coal Co., and later in New York for ConEdison. It was while he and Libby were living in New York that they were reintroduced, and eventually married. They were married in 1936. Their honeymoon



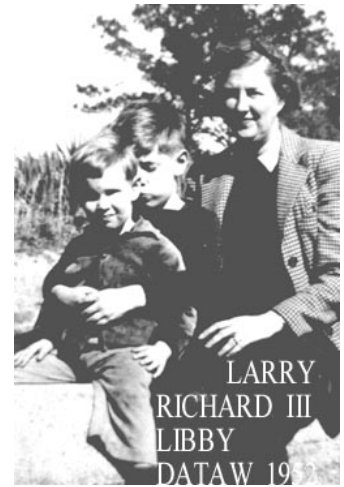
RICH AND LIBBY 1936

was spent traveling the Intracoastal Waterway from Maryland to Beaufort on a Chesapeake Bay crab-boat Richard bought along the Choptank River. They spent their first three years on Datha. Rich built a



ROWLAND COTTAGE  
Pee Dee Pt. area

cottage on Jenkins Creek, on what is now Pee Dee Pt., from cement blocks he formed on the island. The sand he barged in from Egg Bank in St. Helena Sound. He raised hogs and harvested pecans. Libby loved being on her beloved island and close to her relatives in Beaufort but, in time, it became apparent Rich should return to engineering, if they were to start a family. They moved to Detroit, then St. Paul, and eventually settled in East Aurora, NY where Rich was VP of the Gould National Battery Co. in Depew, NY. Under his watch they made batteries for the Oak Ridge plant as part of the Manhattan Project, as well as the storage batteries for the “guppy” class submarines, for the Navy in WWII. Upon Rich’s retirement in 1952 they moved to Beaufort. During their ownership of Dataw the



Rowlands leased part of The Island to the Bishops. The Bishops raised cattle, hogs, and planted tomatoes. At the time the Rowlands’ sons, Dick and Larry, were 13 and 10. Richard and Libby bought Tidalholm to



run it as an Inn, partly, as Rich would say, “to start charging Libby’s endless stream of visiting northern friends”. Libby would take these friends on historic tours of Beaufort and, later, began St. Helena Episcopal Church’s Annual Tour of Homes. Weekends were spent on Datha hosting oyster roasts. Summers were spent in Chaumont NY, or cruising the Thousand Islands on their schooner. Libby died suddenly at Tidalholm in 1965. Rich moved to Athens Greece in 1968, remarried, and died there in 1984. Their sons, Richard and Lawrence inherited Datha in June 1965.



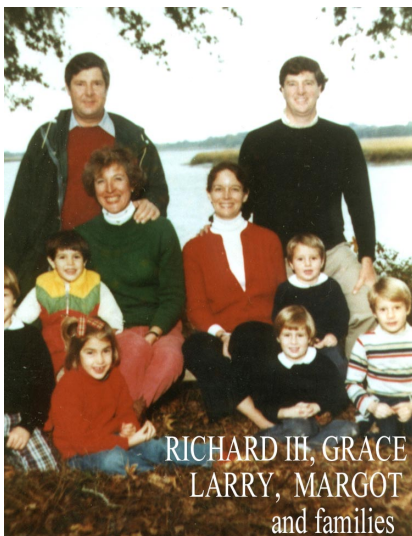
The sons used the land as a tree farm, raised cattle, and leased the fields to the Godleys, for tomato farming. Dick, and Larry, and their families enjoyed The Island as had their parents. As time went on, the brothers made the decision to sell their island. A rather interesting sidelight to the history of Dataw is the connection of



the Rowlands and their Waterhouse/ Sanders relatives to the Sams, in Beaufort, and on Dataw.

The Lewis Reeve Sams' Bay St. house (built in the 1850s) was bought in 1869 by George Waterhouse of Lyman, Maine. For the next 109 years, his descendants would own and occupy this lovely ante-bellum house. Waterhouse's daughter, Harriet Adelaide married Lawrence W. Sanders, there in 1900. After the death of his oldest daughter, Mary Elizabeth in 1951, Lawrence Sanders Jr. (grandson of G. Waterhouse and brother of Elizabeth Rowland) of Montclair, N.J. bought the house

from the Waterhouse estate. He used it as a winter home. It was inherited by his daughter, Susan Sanders of New York City, who sold it to innkeepers, in 1978. Incidentally, Gustave Sanders who owned Dataw Island in 1905, was a cousin of Lawrence Sanders. The Berners Barnwell Sams' Lauren St. house (built in the 1850s) was bought in the late 1800s by another successful "Yankee", James A. Crofut whose brother Capt. George Crofut owned the five acres at Mink Point when G. Sanders owned the rest of Dataw Island.



J.A. Crofut's daughter, Elizabeth and George Waterhouse, Jr. were married in the Lauren St. house and Crofut/Waterhouse descendants have owned and occupied the statuesque ante-bellum house for nearly 120 years. It is currently the home of Marguerite Waterhouse Broz, Elizabeth Rowland's first cousin.



In January 1983 Richard and Lawrence Rowland sold Dataw to ALCOA South Carolina. This was the beginning of the outstanding development we know today. Under the stewardship of William Cochran, a neighborhood of elegant simplicity took form. Not only was a center of beauty established, but also a center of community activity. Following Bill Cochran's lead the members of the Dataw Island community entered wholeheartedly into the affairs of Beaufort and the neighboring low country. From Meals on Wheels and trash pick-up to CRC, and local politics, Dataw members were involved. The Boys and Girls Club, the YMCA pool, the University of South

Carolina, the Technical College of the Low Country, Beaufort Memorial Hospital, the Arsenal Museum, the County Library, Beaufort Land Trust, United Way, Hunting Island State Park, all profited from the outstanding support of those living on Dataw. Locals have been heard to say that “it is as though the residents are on a crusade to improve everything around them”.

The transformation of The Island to meet the projected goal was a formidable task. Before the tremendous infrastructure could even be started, much clearing had to be accomplished. Archeological digs were undertaken to become acquainted, to record, and to preserve anything of value or interest that remained



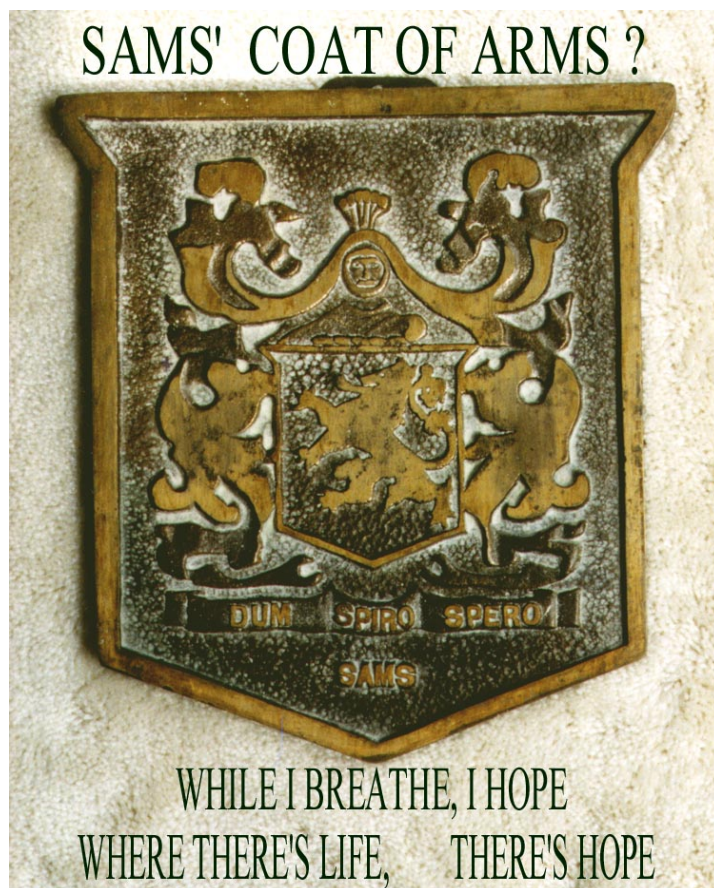
from Dataw’s past. Wonderful tabby ruins had to be exposed and reinforced with some type of scaffolding,



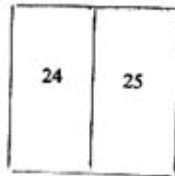
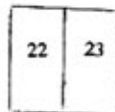
and /or capping. It was to this end that eventually a Ruins Committee was formed of interested residents. This led to the formation of the Dataw Historic Foundation, a tax-exempt organization for the maintenance and preservation of Dataw’s outstanding tabby ruins, so that twenty years down the road those who follow us will be able to enjoy these fragile relics.

The change of these overgrown tabby ruins to their present state was a marvelous job by ALCOA. It is a work that The Foundation hopes not only to maintain, but to augment. Colin Brooker, the acknowledged

expert in this field, has been enlisted to guide the work in progress. Under his direction we anticipate that these, probably the finest of South Carolina's Tabby Ruins, will be preserved for generations to come.



# SAMS CEMETERY STONES



**LAWRENCE FRIPP**

22 son J.E.L. & Evilina Edings Sams Fripp  
b 5/3/1854 d 6/22/1854

**JOSEPH POPE FRIPP**

23 son J.E.L. & Evilina Edings Sams Fripp  
b 5/28/1855 d 8/7/1855

13. WILLIAM WASHINGTON son of B.B.Sams  
b 5/8/1817  
d 8/21/1817 3 mos, 13 days

14. ARIANA ADELINE SAMS dau of B.B.Sams  
b 12/29/1818  
d 10/5/1819 8 mos, 7 days

18

19



13

14



25 JAMES HANN FRIPP son J.E.L. & Evilina Edings Sams Fripp  
b 1/31/1842 d 7/29/1843 17m, 4w, 1d

24 OLIVER FRIPP son J.E.L. & Evilina Edings Sams Fripp  
b 1/31/1843 d 9/17/1843 7mos 18days

20

21



16. Dr. BERNERS BARNWELL SAMS  
b 5/26/1787 on Datha  
d 3/15/1855

15 ELIZ. HANN (FRIPP) SAMS 1st wife B.Sams  
b 8/11/1795  
d 3/16/1831 35 yrs, 5 mos, 26 days

15

16

17



17 MARTHA (EDWARDS) FRIPP SAMS  
2nd wife of B.B. Sams  
b 6/23/1799  
d 2/23/1857

12 SARAH FRIPP SAMS dau Thom. & Martha Hann Fripp., sister of Eliz Hann Fripp  
1st wife of B.B. Sams  
b 12/26/1789  
d 8/12/1825  
1st wife of Lewis Reeve Sams  
mother of

Lewis Reeve Sams  
Miles Brewton Sams  
Caroline Edings Sams b 12/23/1815  
d 2/18/1897, m James Fripp  
4/8/1835

11

11. FRANCIS SAMS  
b 7/31/1799 d 1/15/1827 died at Datha  
son Wm & Eliz. Hext Sams bro LR & BB

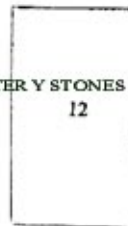
12 SARAH FRIPP SAMS mother of, cont'd  
Robert Barnwell d.y.  
Stanhope Augustus  
CSA bur Decatur GA.  
Marion Washington  
Sarah Emily  
b 9/1/1823, d 9/8/1855  
bur Beauf. Bap. Ch.

**SMALL STONES**

No.s 3,4,8,9,10,18,19,20,21  
are footstones for the appropriate site

**SAMS CEMETERY STONES**

12



8

9

10



5. CAROLINE SAMS  
dau L.R. & Sarah Fripp Sams  
d 12 / 1836 6 weeks old

6. ANGERONA HEXT SAMS  
dau L.R. & Sarah Fripp Sams  
b 2/26/1813  
d 2/22/1818  
4 yrs, 11 mos, 27 days old

5

6

7



7. ROBERT BARNWELL SAMS  
SON L.R. & Sarah Fripp Sams  
b 6/15/1817  
d 9/29/1817  
3 mos, 11 days old

3

4



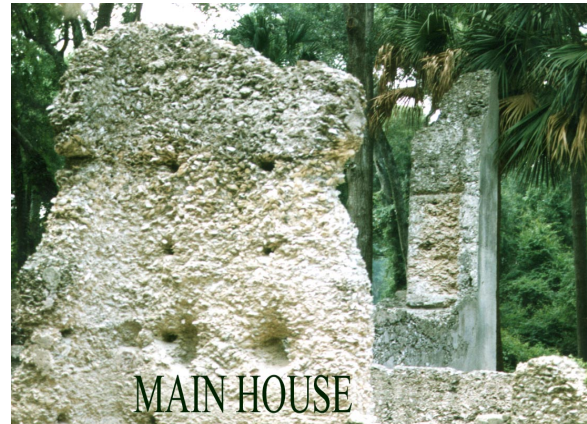
1. ELIZABETH HEXT SAMS  
b 1/2/1746 11/8/1813  
dau. Francis Hext & Eliz. Stanyarne

1

2

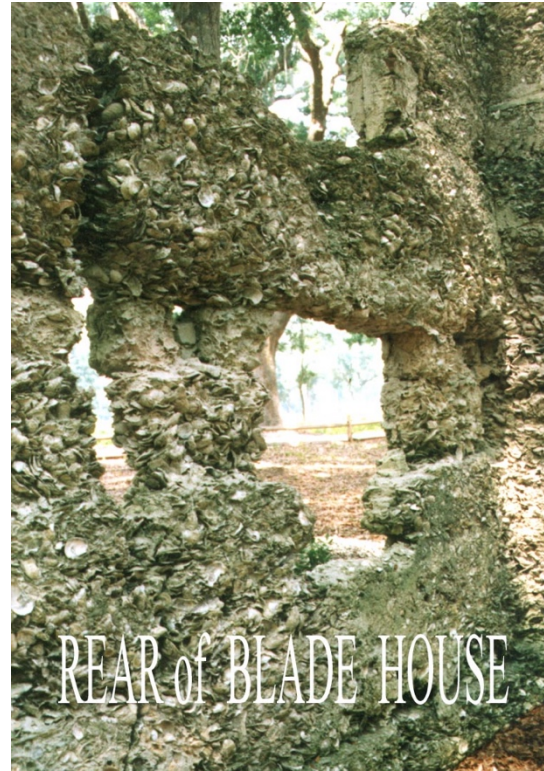


2. WILLIAM SAMS (son of Robt. & Bridget)  
b 4/18/1741 d 1/16/1798  
grndsn 'Tuscarora' Jack Barnwell  
grndsn Bonum Sams of Somerset, England



CAN THIS DETERIORATION BE HALTED ?

ONLY WITH YOUR HELP



Without the assistance and support of a number of interested people this pamphlet could not have been written.

I wish to acknowledge my appreciation to those who have given me tremendous and gracious help and support in the development of this booklet. I have been very moved by the willingness to share, freely, family remembrances, photos, writings, even portraits off living room walls.

Great grandson Attorney T. Reeve Sams and his sister Jeanne Sams Aimar, direct descendants of both B.B. Sams and Lewis Reeve Sams, shared with me family information and letters written during the days of ‘the War Between the States’, as well as treasured ancestors’ portraits.

South Carolina’s renowned historian, Dr. Lawrence “Larry” Rowland, and his wife Margot, not only provided background information of the area, but also personal insight into the lives of the Sanders and



H. Arnold – October 2000

Rowland families, and their connection to Dataw. They also provided the very valuable service of proof reading the finished product.

The Carolina Room of the Beaufort Library was a source of much information, as were ALCOA's records of the transformation, under Bill Cochran's enlightened and farsighted development, of Dataw.

It is my hope that the result is both a better understanding and greater appreciation of our treasure.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Herb Arnold". The signature is written in dark ink and is centered on the page.