

## **Dataw Island Street Name Origins**

### **Dataw Drive**

A 1702 memorandum is the first document to specifically apply the name "Datha" to the property. Over the years, there have been 11 different spellings of Dataw and, if you go back far enough, you will find it spelled as it is today. The word is said to bear the meaning of "green wood" in Muskoghean languages.

### **Gleason's Landing Drive/Court**

Even by today's standards, Kate Gleason's accomplishments are impressive. By the standards of her own time, they are remarkable. Kate Gleason was born in Rochester, New York on November 24, 1865. Her parents were Irish immigrants. Her father was a mechanic and a toolmaker who owned a small machine tool business. In 1874, Gleason's father designed a machine that automatically planed beveled gears. This machine allowed for great precision. In 1877, Gleason's half-brother died, and she began helping out in the office of her father's tool shop. At a time when women's suffrage was still forty years away, higher education was thought to endanger the delicate health of young females, and a woman's place was definitely in the home, Kate Gleason became her father's "right-hand man", keeping the books, traveling around America and to Europe alone to sell machine tools and providing much of the public "face" of the Gleason Corporation. In 1914, she was the first woman to be elected to full membership in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and in 1916 she was one of the first women to be elected to the Rochester Chamber of Commerce and the first woman elected to the Rochester Engineering Society. In 1917, Kate Gleason was named acting President of the First National Bank of East Rochester, the first woman in America to hold such a post. During her tenure, she helped launch eight new businesses in the East Rochester area. The largest of these was the Concrest community, a subdivision of one hundred low-cost, poured-concrete, six-room houses, along with a country club, golf course and park. This second career in building and real estate brought Kate considerable wealth in her own right. In 1924, she was called in to advise the city of Berkeley, CA. on rebuilding after a disastrous fire there. She also built a number of homes in Sausalito, although much of the property was taken over to provide the northern approach to the Golden Gate Bridge, She also bought property in Beaufort, SC and in Septmonts, France where she helped the village rebuild after the war. At the time of her death on January 9, 1933, she was in the middle of building an artists' and writers' colony on her South Carolina property (Dataw Island). Her motto: "Possum Volo" ("I can, if I will.")

Feb 3, 2019 correction by Bill Riski. The last line should read "... (Lady's Island)."

Reference: "The Life and Letters of Kate Gleason" by Janis F. Gleason, 2010, page 118.

### **Long Field Drive**

Much of the land area south of the B.B. Sams family compound to the wharf at Mink Point (on what is now called Gleason's Landing Drive) was planted in cotton and indigo. This field stretched from Jenkins Creek on the east to the cotton dikes, holding back the sea, on the western side of the island. Owing to its shape, it was called the "long field" by the Sams family. Visitors from Beaufort arrived by ship at Mink Point, where they were met by carriage and conveyed to the plantation house on a road, lined with live oak trees, that passed through the fields of cotton. Two of the original oak trees still remain at the end of Long Field Drive.

### **Odingsell Court**

Charles Odingsell received a warrant from "Ye Secretary's Office for (purchase of) that island called Westbrook's Island (Dataw) dated March 21<sup>st</sup>, 1698/99". He was the first English grantee of Dataw Island.

### **South Boone Road**

Joseph Boone purchased title to Dataw Island from Charles Odingsell in 1702.

### **Island Circle East/West**

In 1984, Alcoa retained the Austin Kelley Advertising Company to develop street and place names as part of its marketing plan for Dataw. The planned perimeter road which would encircle the island was appropriately (if not creatively) named "Island Circle East/West."

### **Cotton Dike Court/Drive**

B.B. Sams realized that the tidal freshwater creeks and rivers surrounding Dataw Island could provide free irrigation of the marshes for cotton production if a way could be found to keep the tidal creeks free of salt water. He supervised the construction of tabby walls that held back the sea but allowed fresh water to irrigate the cotton crop. The experiment failed because the soil was too sandy to support a cotton crop. However, the fresh water ponds attracted a lot of ducks and other water fowl and, so, were kept for hunting. The remnants of these "cotton dikes" can still be seen from vantage points on Oak Island or from the white tee box of # 5 hole on the Cotton Dike course.

### **B.B.Sams Drive**

Berners Barnwell Sams (1787-1855) was born on 'Datha' Island; one of six sons of William Sams and Sarah Fripp. He was well educated and became a medical doctor and successful planter of rice and cotton. Upon attaining his majority at the age of 26, he inherited the southern half of Datha Island which included Dataw's present-day Plantation complex. At that time, his property contained a small house called "the old house". He married Elizabeth Hann Fripp in 1812 and they lived in this house until 1816. During those years, B.B. excavated a basement under the 'old house' and added two connecting identical wings (no basement) and a connecting hallway at the rear that integrated them into the original house. B.B. Sams and Elizabeth raised 15 children in the house.

### **Locust Fence Drive**

Upon the death of their father, Lewis Reeve Sams and Berners Barnwell Sams inherited Dataw Island. They decided to divide Dataw Island into two distinct parts with Lewis owning the northern half, and B.B. owning the southern half. They planted a fence of Locust trees across the island to serve as the boundary line.

### **Curisha Point**

One of the many streams that flows around Dataw Island is known as Curisha Creek or River. Dr. James Julius Sams (son of B.B. Sams) recalls its course in his memoirs. "This river seemed to be a branch of the Coosaw. It started from Coosaw Island with a broad sweep, ran close up to Pol-Wannie (an island owned by Dr. L.R. Sams and situated between St. Helena and Datha), then swept around the eastern part of Datha, beginning with Big-Landing, passing Polly-Dock, then on to Bob Island and around, finally becoming what is known as Curisha Creek or River, which ran in front of Mink Point on to Bell Island and emptied into [the] Warsaw River." When you cross the entry bridge to Dataw, you go over Curisha Creek. Residents on Gleasons Landing Rd. look out over Curisha Creek.

**Westbrook Rd.**

In the 1670's, Indian traders were spreading south from Charleston. At that time, Indian trading was the principal economy of the Sea Islands. This gave rise to the first written reference to Dataw Island. Caleb Westbrook, a Scot, received a warrant for land from the Lords Proprietors on October 24, 1682.

*"Carolina Ss:/"*

*You are forthwith: to cause to admeasured & laid out to Caleb Westbrooke two hundred and sixty acres of land being soe much due to him by the Lords proprietors: concessions for himselfe one woman Servant & and two man Servts: arriveing in December 1680 — in some convenient place not yet laid out for any other person or Use and if some happen upon any Navigable river or river capable to be made Navigable you are to certificate fully specifying the Scittuacon & bounds thereof you are to returne to us with all convenient speed; and for your soe doing this shall be your wart: dated this 24<sup>th</sup> day of October 1682"*

He promptly set up a trading post on the island at Mink Point. 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.

**Pee Dee Point**

The Pee Dee River, about 435 miles long, rises as the Yadkin River in the Blue Ridge Mountains of northwestern North Carolina and flows northeast, then southeast to Winyah Bay, South Carolina. It is called the Yadkin for about 200 miles until it is joined by the Uharie River west of Troy, North Carolina. As the Pee Dee it continues for another 230 miles to the sea. The PeeDee tribe lived along the middle course of the Pee Dee in what is now Chesterfield and Marlboro counties. They built circular homes made of tree bark along river banks. Most villages probably contained a sweat lodge which was used for ritual purification. The Pee Dee were farmers who raised corn and beans and gathered many wild plants including acorns, chestnuts, strawberries and plums. They also hunted deer and small game and engaged in freshwater fishing

From 1712 – 1716, the Pee Dee fought with the British against other South Carolina tribes in the Tuscarora and Yemassee Wars. Under pressure from the more dominant Catawba Indian tribe, some Pee Dee Indians joined with the Catawbas while others moved to white settlements and intermarried. The last mention of the Pee Dee was in a state document dated 1808. Little is known about the culture of the Pee Dee, but it is likely that their beliefs and basic practices were similar to other southeastern Siouan tribes.

**Chicora Point**

Named after the Chicora Indian tribe, which once populated Coastal South Carolina. The Spanish explorer Allyon first encountered the Chicora near what is now Pawley's Island, sometime in the 1520's

The legend of the giant Indian King Datha, who ruled over his kingdom called Duhare (generally, the interior of what is now South Carolina) was told to the Spanish by the Indian Francesco Chicora (so baptized by his captors) in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century.

**Doe Point**

In 1984, Alcoa retained the Austin Kelley Advertising Company to develop street and place names as part of its marketing plan for Dataw. Owing to the large herds of deer found on the island at that time, Doe Point seemed a fitting name.

**Oak Island Rd.**

Named, simply, because it connects Dataw Drive to Oak Island. Dr. James Julius Sams (son of Dr. B.B. Sams) describes it this way in his memoirs:

*"There is another part of the island by no means to be omitted in my attempt to describe it. It consists of Oak Island, and two Pine Islands, Cedar Island and some two or three smaller. Oak Island was the largest, the next in size, the Pines. Between Datha, Oak Island and the Pines were a number of ponds. These ponds were the result of an attempt made by my father to obtain salt land for the planting of cotton."*

**UNFINISHED STREET NAMES**

Springwell Road

Big Dataw Point

Malilly Run Rd.

Palmetto Point

Sparrow Nest Drive

**North/South Reeve Rd and Reeve Point**

Dr. Lewis Reeve Sams