

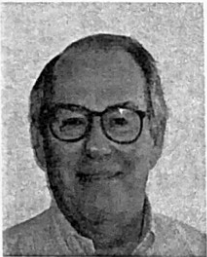
Tabby Tattler

Dataw Historic Foundation Newsletter

Volume III, Fall 2007

Featuring

'Rededication of Cotton Dike Road Cemetery' and recent Preservation Updates



From the President . . .

As you will read in the next few pages of this DHF semi-annual newsletter, the Foundation has taken on several new projects in 2007, and I believe this year will finish as the most successful year in the DHF's twelve-year history.

In my column for this issue, I want to share something with you--something I have been wondering since I first became involved with DHF:

Do most of the Dataw residents (or prospective new residents) think of the plantation ruins as a major asset/amenity of Dataw life? I suspect that a few years ago, many of our residents would have answered the question with a "maybe" or a qualified "yes". As more new people move here, I sense from DHF's increased membership that the answer is quickly becoming "absolutely".

One of the best examples of this increased appreciation for Dataw's historic ruins can be found in the wonderful new Dataw brochure and internet website, put together by the joint DIC/DIOA marketing committee (along with Dataw's new marketing agency, Brandon). This strong new communication effort, which features the major amenities on Dataw includes a dramatic picture of the plantation ruins along with informative copy about Dataw's rich history.

Today, several experts tell us that Dataw has some of the finest historic plantation ruins in the country. I think we are fortunate these precious ruins have been preserved in order to be enjoyed by many generations to come. There are two basic reasons for this. First, when Alcoa purchased Dataw Island, the firm was aware of the Island's rich 320-year history and spent considerable resources on architectural and archaeological investigations. They were committed to preserving as much of the history of the Island as possible. Second, the DIOA and its volunteer committee, the DHF, have continued Alcoa's commitment to preserving and archiving the Island's history. Since Alcoa turned over the management of the Island to the residents, the DIOA/DHF

Continued on Page 4

2008 Membership Campaign Begins January 1

DHF seeks support from all Island residents. Please respond to the Membership Information Packet, which will cap the 2007 activities and present 2008 goals and budget. Look for it in your message boxes at the beginning of the new year.

Save the Date
Oyster Roast
March 10, 2008

2007 DHF Christmas Card
Popular Again This Year



Special DHF holiday greeting photographed and designed by Dick Golobic.

\$20 for 18 cards

Available in:

- ♦Community Center
- ♦Golf Shop

or call:

Cathy Crocker 0897
Barbara Titus 3483
Marianne Beck 7094

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2007 Fish Fry

A great beginning to the fall season.



Leslie Holbrook, Lynn Maher
Nancy Brinkman & Carol Looney

Art Looney &
Charlie Holbrook

On October 16 at the gazebo, 128 DHF members enjoyed a beautiful outdoor Dataw evening coupled with a tasty fish dinner, an amazing assortment of desserts (including a plate of fish-shaped cookies) and plenty of beer and wine. The 5th annual fall fish fry once again proved to be a wonderful time for residents to reconnect after the summer months.

Chairs, Leslie Holbrook and Carol Looney did a superb job of planning and coordinating the food, setup, decorations and volunteers. They were assisted by Nancy Brinkman and Lynn Maher, who assembled a beautiful dessert table of homemade "goodies" contributed by member bakers. Over \$1,400 in net proceeds from this popular, sold-out event went to help fund DHF preservation projects.



The Chef



John Colgan serves Jim Koerber



Cathy & Tom Crocker & Joyce Foley



Woody Rutter with Evan Thompson, HBF Ex. Dir.



Copleys, Scovilles & Mariann Golobic

Interesting and Informative Fireside Chat Featuring Author Jim Jordan Held in Carolina Room



Jim Jordan, Author
of "Savannah Gray"

An outstanding "southern" dinner prepared by Chef Joe Kelly was enjoyed by 112 attendees on November 2 as part of the HBF Fireside Chat series.

After dinner, Callawassie resident and author, Jim Jordan, spoke. A PowerPoint presentation complemented his topic: **Knocking on the Gates of Hell: The South Ponders Civil War**. His excellent talk focused on events that occurred between the election of Abraham Lincoln and the shots fired on Fort Sumter.

Marilyn Peck put together the winning dinner/speaker combination.



Jack Brown with Sams'
descendent Jeanne Sams Aimar &
Betty Sams

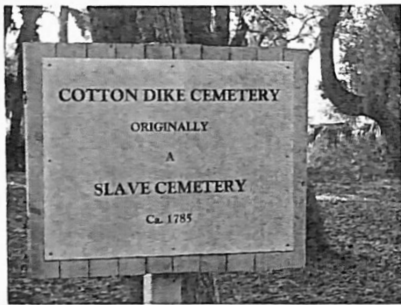
T. Reeve Sams & his wife Betty

Barbara & David Clinkenbeard

Scrib & Ann Fauver

HBF to Rededicate Cotton Dike Road Cemetery

Thanks to John Colgan



The old sign identifying the cemetery on Cotton Dike Road and the two new signs replacing it.



Prior to 1861, Dataw Island was a highly successful cotton and indigo plantation owned by the B. B. Sams family and worked by over 100 slaves. The work was hard, life-threatening diseases were unchecked, and life spans were short. Around 1785, two years after purchasing Dataw from the Gibbes, William Sams found it necessary to provide a final resting place for one of his slaves. Thus Cotton Dike cemetery came into being.

No written records survive to tell us the identity of, or even how many slaves were buried in the Cotton Dike cemetery prior to the battle of Port Royal Sound and the subsequent occupation of Beaufort by Union troops.

The 1861 flight of the plantation owners left the slaves, now free men and women, to fend for themselves. Most had known no other home but Dataw Island and elected to stay on the land and farm it for themselves. Separated by water from the mainland, these former slaves and their descendants, developed a unique society--a blend of West African and 19th century American experiences and traditions handed down orally from generation to generation. Among those traditions were shoreline burial practices, which continued at the Cotton Dike cemetery until 1967.

In 2006, with the aid of ground penetration radar technology, the Dataw Historic Foundation discovered what is believed to be the remains of at least 39 person interred there. The actual number of gravesites is believed to have been much larger. Over the centuries, the natural movement of water has eroded the Cotton Dike cemetery and obliterated a large part of it.

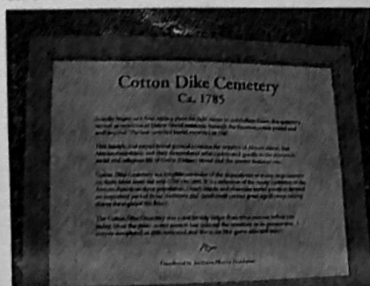
Two signs were placed at the Cotton Dike cemetery site on November 15, 2007, to recognize the contributions made by these people to the history and culture of Dataw Island as well as the greater Beaufort area. The design and construction of the signs was coordinated by John Colgan. Peter Pearks designed and built the frames, and they were put up by John, Peter, Cathy Crocker and Jack Brown.

At the suggestion, and with the cooperation of Mr. Andrew Robinson, a Dataw Island native and one of the original Alcoa employees, the Dataw Historic Foundation has obtained the names of individuals believed to be buried at the Cotton Dike cemetery. One of the signs will contain the known family names of those buried there.

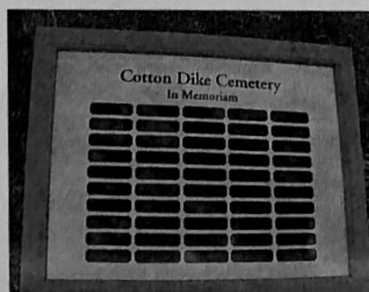
A dedication ceremony is being planned. All residents and interested residents will be invited to attend. Details will be announced in 2008.



2006 Ground Penetration Radar Scan



New sign recognizing slave contributions to area.



Memorial sign. Names will soon be added.



Construction crew--Jack, Cathy, Peter & John

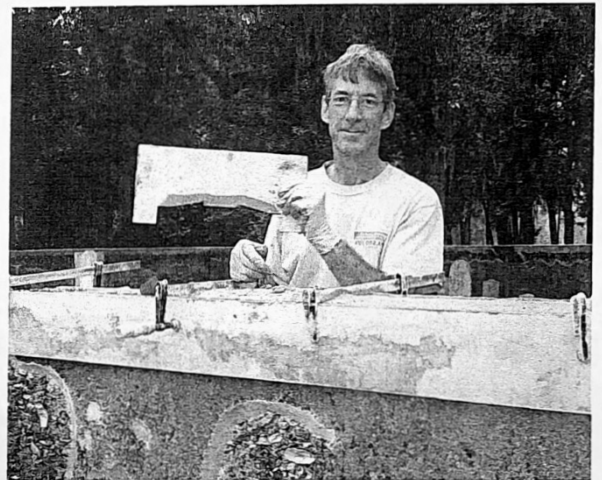
Cemetery Wall Capped

Cathy Crocker & Mariann Golobic

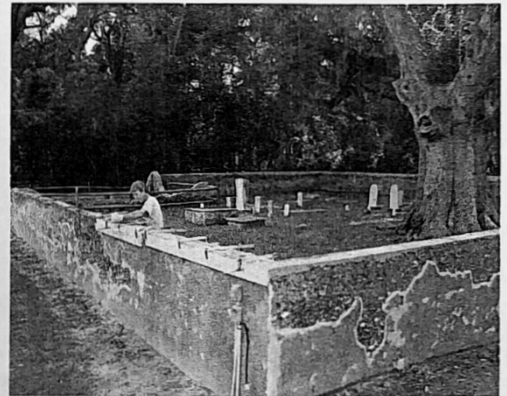
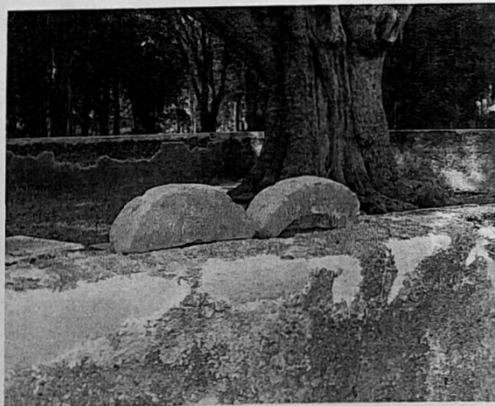
Structures in the lowcountry are constantly assaulted by heat, moisture and the sea air causing gradual deterioration. Next time you are either near the Sams' plantation ruins or playing #2 hole on Cotton Dike, take a look at the feathering and capping that has been done to the cemetery wall. Rick Wightman, who first began working on the tabby structures on Dataw in 1984, has just completed this latest DHF preservation effort.

Rick, in consultation with local tabby expert, Colin Brooker, applied a sand mixture using a feathering technique to the walls to help correct this potentially serious problem. Using a special form tool, he also capped the top of the wall with the same sand mixture. The form tool put a groove in the top of the wall where bricks would have originally been aligned to give the wall a more decorative look. Several curved bricks were found near the wall and are believed to be part of the top. It is now easy to imagine how the wall originally looked.

Completion of this project ensures greater stability to this unique piece of Dataw history.



Rick Wightman displays the form tool.



From the President continued from Page 1

have completed close to 30 preservation projects in the plantation complex at a cost of \$100,000 plus.

I am most proud to report that for the past several years all of these preservation projects have been totally funded by DHF, primarily because of the enthusiastic and growing support from its members. This year, your membership dues and support of special events and projects helped DHF raise a record \$25,000 for preservation projects. Our current membership stands at 367 members. This figure is up over 44% from five years ago, and it represents 46% of Dataw homes.

Once again I wish to thank each of you along with the DIC/DIOA marketing committee and our hardworking volunteers. Together we have helped make the Dataw tabby plantation ruins a truly unique historic treasure for our special community.

Jack Brown

Tabby Cradle on Display near Sams House

Cathy Crocker and Mariann Golobic



Cradle parts were not attached so they could be removed easily and reassembled for the next section.

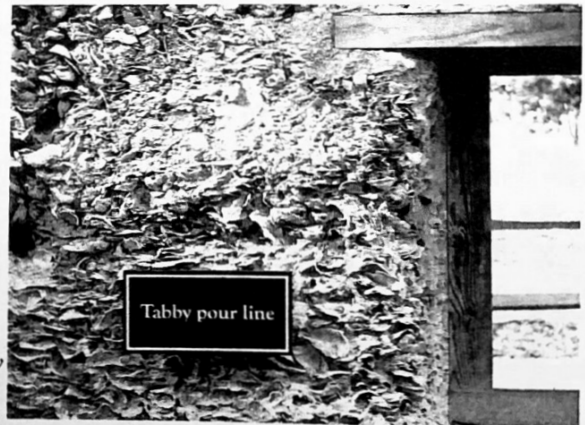
Next to the ruins of the B.B. Sams house, the DHF has placed a "cradle" that was used in the making of tabby walls. The cradle was first placed on the line where a wall was to be constructed. Wet tabby, a mixture of sand, oyster shells, water and lime, was then poured into the cradle. After the poured section dried, the cradle was removed. It was then placed either next to the dried section or on top of it, and the process was repeated until the wall was the desired height and length. To create a window or door space, short planks were placed inside the cradle. You can see the pour lines in the tabby walls of the plantation house.

The interpretative sign originally in front of the house ruins describing tabby construction has been moved next to the cradle.

Rick Wightman built the cradle.



Jack Brown, Peter Pearks and John Colgan moved the sign describing tabby construction.



Mystery Crypt Corner Posts Returned to Dataw



Pieces of crypt in cemetery.

One year ago in the Fall 2006 issue of the *Tattler*, the feature article revealed that the several marble fragments resting along the southern wall in the Sams family cemetery were a part of the crypt erected for Sarah Fripp Sams (wife of Lewis Reeves Sams) in 1825.

Each DHF newsletter is sent to several Sams' family descendents, who are honorary members of the DHF. Shortly after the article appeared, Jack received a phone call from Charlotte, NC, from Arthur Sams. Arthur told him that he has had two of the missing pieces since 1950, and that he had now given them to his daughter Susan. He also reported that the family had decided to gift the two pieces to DHF.

Last May Susan delivered the pieces to Jack's home. With the gift of these pieces, DHF now has all but one of the missing pieces of the crypt.

DHF is exploring possible reconstruction of the damaged crypt.



Jack Brown receiving two crypt pieces from Susan Sams Allen

