

# Tabby Tattler

Winter 2009

Dataw Historic Foundation Newsletter

Featuring

## 1825 Sams Family Crypt Restoration and Dataw Historic Display at Welcome Center



From the President . . .

These are very exciting times for DHF, and it is my pleasure to welcome you to our newest semi-annual newsletter. This issue will tell you more about the many projects we are working on in 2009, which I think will turn out to be the most active and most important in DHF's 14-year history.

As the continuing steward/caretaker of Dataw's history, DHF is responsible for overseeing the care and maintenance of all historic structures on Dataw Island, as well as for the preservation of all artifacts and historic archives.

DHF's success over the years--and certainly our plans for this year--are the direct result of membership dues and support of special fundraising events. I am delighted to report that we are off to a terrific start in 2009, with 279 members signed up during January--77% of our annual goal. This dynamic membership, combined with reserves from strong support over the past few years, will make it possible for DHF to take on several big projects this year.

Here is a list of DHF's biggest projects--it is a significant illustration of DHF membership dollars at work:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Est. DHF Expenditures</u>
• Crypt restoration project at Sams Cemetery	\$17,000
• New historic display at Welcome Center	15,000
• New "Heritage Brick" fundraiser (start-up costs)	8,500
• Oyster Roast & Fish Fry fundraisers (Expenses)	6,200
• Artifacts & archives storage system at Welcome Center	5,500
• Preservation and signage efforts at Sams Plantation Complex	4,000

On behalf of the DHF Board, I would like to thank all of the 30-plus, hardworking volunteers who will be helping to make 2009 a success. Most important of all, I thank all of the DHF members for their support and financial help. For those of you who are not yet members, I encourage you to join DHF in its exciting adventure to make sure that Dataw's tabby plantation ruins and its records/archives remain unique, historic treasures of our wonderful community.

Jack Brown

### Oyster Roast

March 9

5 -7:30 by the Ruins

Plenty of sweet oysters  
and much more  
\$30 per person (members only)

Check to Doug Campbell  
1132 Palmetto Point

### New DHF Notecard



on the back of the card

SAMS PLANTATION RUINS  
Dataw Island, South Carolina

"Misty Ruins"

photo by  
BONNIE McDONALD

DATAW HISTORIC FOUNDATION

10 cards for \$10  
Available in  
-Golf Pro Shop  
-Community Center



Chairs, Carol Looney and Leslie Holbrook



# 2008 Fish Fry Enjoyed by all!

Serving as DHF Fundraising co chairs for the last time (after two years at the helm), Leslie Holbrook and Carol Looney chalked up another big DHF fundraising success.

Much to their relief, the rain held off, and the weather was beautiful for the 131 attendees of this "sold out" event held at the Gazebo on October 13.

Once again Steve Brown provided great flounder and hush puppies which were served along with cole slaw and mixed bean salad.

Special thanks go to Nancy Brinkman and Lynn Maher for coordinating a fantastic dessert table. Nancy and Lynn appreciated the beautiful array of desserts provided by our members.

Thanks also go to Barbara Titus and Anne Williams for serving as greeters at the check-in table and to the many servers and bar tenders, who made the event such a success. Over \$1,100 in profit was realized from the evening.



Chief bar tenders, Art Looney and Charlie Holbrook



## Larry Rowland kept audience entertained with interesting presentation on *Dataw Island in the 20th Century*.

Excellent slide show put together by Joel Holden accompanied talk.



Margot and Larry

On November 19, 2008, nearly 170 people gathered in the Carolina Room to share a truly "Southern" meal and enjoy an informative talk by Dataw's own **Larry Rowland**. Larry regaled with many stories and pictures (compiled by Joel) regarding Kate Gleason; the Rowland family; the house built by his parents; Island farming, wildlife and hunting; his growing up in the area and finally of selling Dataw to Alcoa. Rave reviews were received on this captivating Fireside Chat.

Marilyn Peck coordinated the memorable evening.



Larry with Jack & Mel Brown.



Marilyn welcoming attendees.



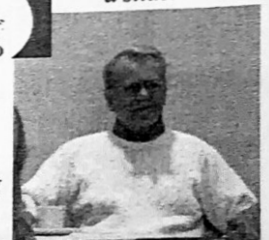
*Dataw Island in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*



Larry describing a slide.



Joel managing the slideshow.



# Historic Display at Welcome Center Taking Shape

by Barbara Clinkenbeard, Historic Committee Chair



On February 5, the DHF Historic Committee (Barbara Clinkenbeard, Jane Griffith, Joel Holden and Anne Williams) joined by Lori Murdaugh, DIOA and DIC liaison; Ted Bartlett, our new GM; and Jack Brown and Marilyn Peck (DHF President and VP) held an important meeting with museum display expert, Carol Poplin, Senior Project Manager of The History Workshop out of Mt. Pleasant. The purpose of the meeting was to present preliminary plans for the Welcome Center lobby wall display. The goal of this joint project of the DHF, the DIOA and the DIC is to create a chronological history of Dataw Island that will not only impress prospective buyers and visitors in the Welcome Center, but also be enjoyed by all residents as well.

Dataw's recorded history goes back to the founding of the Carolina Colony in the seventeenth century. Prior to the arrival of Europeans, Native American people thrived on the Island's abundant natural resources. The exhibit will span the period from approximately 10,000 BC until 1983. It will include a multi-faceted timeline that showcases events on Dataw as well as important regional, state and national events. The primary focus of the exhibit will be the plantation period which generally corresponds with the Sams' tenure (1783-1861). The goal of the project is to help visitors make connections between the historical accounts presented in the Welcome Center, the wonderful house model constructed by Jerry Hubbard and the unique Sams plantation ruins

Carol Poplin has been involved with preserving Dataw's history since the 1980s, when Alcoa sponsored a number of archaeological investigations to ensure that important information about the history of Dataw was not lost when our community was developed. Her thorough knowledge and appreciation of our history and artifacts has been invaluable in the planning of this display. The History Workshop proposes to use a selection of artifacts recovered during these investigations, as well as stories gleaned from the historical research, to design and fabricate interpretive exhibits for presentation.

It was confirmed that a flexible, moveable cabinet-style system will be constructed. It will be composed of multiple parts which when assembled will resemble a large credenza-type piece of furniture embellished with attractive decorative molding. It will hold 3 removable interpretive panels and 3 artifact display cases. The History Workshop has selected Murphy and Orr Exhibits of Atlanta, GA to design, fabricate and install the exhibit system.

Narrative content, color schemes, time periods were all discussed. Drafts of the narrative of the interpretive panels and casework shop drawing of the exhibit system will be presented for DHF/DIOA/DIC approval in March.

It is hoped that the display will be in place some time this summer.



*Carol Poplin, Sr. Project Manager at The History Workshop, goes over plans for the historic display, which will extend the length of one wall in the Welcome Center.*

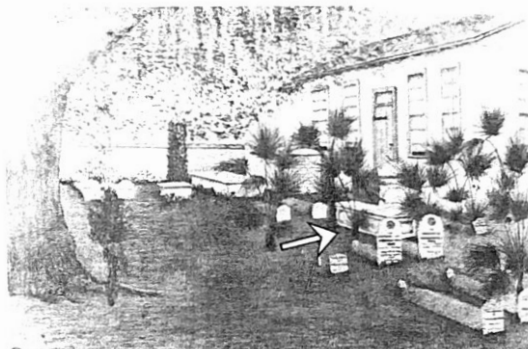


*February 5 DHF Historic Committee meeting with Carol Poplin at the Welcome Center to formulate display plans.*

# Sarah Fripp Sams Crypt to be Restored

by Cathy Crocker, Ruins Committee Chair

“The Crypt Mystery Solved” was the title of an article in the Tabby Tattler in Fall of 2006. It revealed that the fragments of marble which had been found in the cemetery were actually part of what was once the crypt of Sarah Fripp Sams, wife of Lewis Reeves Sams, who died in 1825. At that time, we were in possession of two side walls, one end wall and two corner posts. After that story, two more corner posts were returned (from offsite) to DHF, which was the subject of another Tabby Tattler article in the Fall 2007 newsletter.



Sketch of chapel and cemetery showing the crypt (done by Eugenia Sams ca 1833).

After some discussion, it has been decided that the crypt should be reconstructed in its original place. We have been in touch with Lynette Strangstad, a prominent authority on cemetery preservation and the author of *A Graveyard Preservation Primer*, which was one of the first books to address the difficult issues of burial ground preservation. It has been a leading title in the field since its publication in 1988. Her impressive resume also lists additional articles written on stone repair and stone cleaning, which have appeared in leading preservation journals. Lynette is a frequent speaker at historic preservation conferences and has been involved in numerous cemetery preservation projects including that of St. Helena's Episcopal Church in Beaufort.



Conservation Technician David Via & his assistant.

David Via, Lynette's conservation technician, and his assistant visited Dataw in May, 2008. He took numerous pictures and measurements. We have now signed a contract for the work which will likely take place in April. This work will include repairing the tomb base; pinning the four corner legs into the tomb base; repairing the broken side panel; creating a new end panel; attaching the four panels to the corner legs; reinforcing the broken tomb cover with a support slab and resetting the cover on the rebuilt box. The project is expected to take approximately 15 days and has the approval of the Sams family.



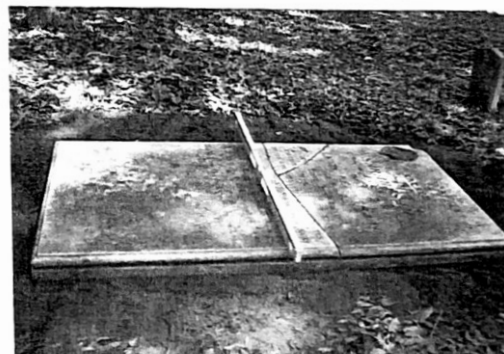
David Via photographing crypt pieces.



Mystery pieces found along cemetery wall.



In June, 2006, Eric Poplin determined pieces to be part of a crypt.



Taking precise measurements of the top inscribed slab.

# "Dataw Heritage Walk" Plans in Place



*Approximate location of proposed "Heritage Walk."*

In order to provide continuing support for our preservation programs in the ruins as well as to target a DIOA/DIC long-range goal to create a permanent location for all historic exhibits and archives, the DHF is launching its most ambitious fundraising project to date.

Any current or past Dataw residents, who have made an investment in the growth of the Island along with any long-term Dataw employees, who have influenced the continued development of Dataw, are eligible to have his/her/their "footprint" or brick in the planned "Dataw Heritage Walk."

The committee, comprised of Joel Holden, Liz Blair, John Huntley, Terry Lurtz, Cece Megrue, Peter Pearks and Anne Williams, has put in numerous hours studying locations, evaluating materials, determining process and cost, establishing eligibility, deciding on marketing and receiving required approvals.

Watch for specific details in the near future, when this exciting project will become the ideal way to celebrate your "Dataw heritage."

## DHF Board Updates

### Watch for new DHF feature on the Internet.

Liz Blair has written several interesting blurbs relating to facts and stories from Dataw archives that will appear periodically. Look for this logo soon.

### **Dataw Historic Foundation**



*Did you know?*

### DHF Adopts Sams Cemetery Oak Tree.

DHF will take on as a stewardship project the cost of maintaining the 400-year-old oak for at least the next five years. The contract with the DIOA and Preservation Tree Care, Inc. includes crown cleaning, root fertilization and lightning protection at an estimated total cost of about \$2,100 for the five-year period.

*The 400-year-old Sams Cemetery Oak is one of the most historically significant live oak trees in the Low-country. It is recognized by the National Live Oak Society.*



### DHF 2009 Board Changes.

Special thanks for their enthusiasm and many contributions over the past several years is given to retiring Board members, Mariann Golobic, Carol Looney and Denise Ogden. A warm welcome is extended to new Board members, Patty Gesell, John Huntley, Terry Lurtz, Lynn Maher and Anne Williams. Sincere appreciation is expressed to Jane Griffith and Leslie Holbrook for assuming new Board responsibilities.

### Pat Bell, Membership Chair, reports 2009 membership to date is 279. Goal is 365 members—45% of residents.

#### **DHF Membership Info**

DHF seeks support from all Island residents. If you are not currently a member, please return the form on the bottom of the green insert.

### Beaufort Council of Garden Clubs tours ruins.

On a chilly February 3, following a meeting and luncheon, where Larry Rowland was the featured speaker, several visitors toured the Sams Plantation ruins. They were hosted by Anne Williams, Denise Ogden, Marilyn Peck, Leslie Holbrook and Jack Brown.



### New Fundraising Chairs busy with Oyster Roast prep.

Patty Gesell and Lynn Maher, new DHF Fundraising Committee Chairs, are busy with preparations for the annual Oyster Roast on March 9. Paula Campbell will be coordinating the popular raffle. Joan Berra and Robin Colgan are in charge of the dessert tables in the Cannery.

### Treasurer, Doug Campbell, provides budgets and balances.

Doug is using a fund accounting system for the DHF books. Along with the general fund for everyday operations, there is an archaeological fund for major preservation projects and a storm recovery fund. DHF is appreciative of Doug's expertise, organization and detailed reports. Thanks Doug.

## DHF Board Updates Continued

**Cathy Crocker, Ruins Committee Chair, lead biennial investigation of historic structures.** On January 19, Cathy, Jack Brown and George Mason met with archaeologist, Colin Brooker, and tabby expert, Rick Wightman, to check for deterioration in the Sams plantation complex ruins. Colin will put together a report of any defects found along with a proposal of costs. The good news is that there was not a significant amount of deterioration. They did find some cracks and places where the stucco needs to be feathered, but for the most part it appears that DHF is doing its job.



*Colin Brooker snaps a picture of a crack in a tabby wall while Rick Wightman looks on.*


**Barbara Clinkenbeard and Jane Griffith, Historic Committee Chairs, spend many hours in the new DHF History Room at the Welcome Center** organizing all of Dataw's records and archives. One day while Joel Holden was assisting with computer input, they came across a document listing the "Chain of Title" to Dataw Island compiled from Warrants for Land (Caleb Westbrook, 10/24/1682), to Royal Grants, Wills, Purchase Deeds, Division of Estates, Purchase at Auction, Crop Liens and Quick Claim Deeds. It concludes on 1/14/1983 when Richard and Lawrence Rowland sold it to Alcoa. There are 40 transactions listed. Of particular note was one dated 3/10/1863--*United States by confiscation for nonpayment of taxes; this included both the northern plantation, termed Datha Point, and the southern plantation, termed Datha Inlet.*

Jane Griffith also reports coming across a letter referencing the time when the Dataw Ruins Committee began ruins preservation efforts. This may serve as a reference for new member, George Mason, to write about the restoration process. George was a part of the DHF group that met with Colin and Rick for the biennial investigation.


Barbara and Jane have also been actively involved with the creation of the historic exhibit in the Welcome Center.

**Joel Holden, Vice President, has photographed all artifacts** and placed them into a special software program entitled *PastPerfect for Museum Collections*. Over 500 artifacts are now carefully documented. Below are samples of completed records.

### Dataw Historic Foundation Historical Artifact Objects Catalog

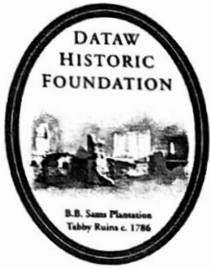
<b>2008.100.388    Historic Artifacts : Household : Bottle/Bottle Fragment</b>	
<b>Image</b> 	<b>Description:</b> Intact wine bottle. Green Glass with surface swirled by minerals. Stamped 5T4(?) on bottom Found at the foundation of the dairy/bladehouse.
<b>Material:</b> Glass	<b>Prov #:</b> ?.:2:35 <b>Other Nos:</b>
<b>Date:</b> 18th Century	<b>Size(in/oz)</b> <b>height:</b> 10.00 <b>width:</b> 0.000 <b>length:</b> 0.000
<b>Year Range:</b>	<b>depth:</b> 0.000 <b>diam:</b> 4.000 <b>weight:</b> 0.000
<b>Found at:</b> Dairy Long Room	<b>Site:</b> BB Sams Plantation <b>Site #:</b> 38BU581

### Dataw Historic Foundation Historical Artifact Objects Catalog

<b>2008.100.389    Historic Artifacts : Prehistoric : Pottery</b>	
<b>Image</b> 	<b>Description:</b> Side of cordmarked pottery jug or bowl. Nine pieces cemented together. Prehistoric, from the middle woodland period 1-1000AD.
<b>Material:</b> Pottery	<b>Prov #:</b> <b>Other Nos:</b>
<b>Date:</b> Middle Woodland	<b>Size(in/oz)</b> <b>height:</b> 5.000 <b>width:</b> 10.00 <b>length:</b> 0.000
<b>Year Range:</b> 1 To 1000	<b>depth:</b> 0.000 <b>diam:</b> 0.000 <b>weight:</b> 0.000
<b>Found at:</b>	<b>Site:</b> Wood Gully marsh <b>Site #:</b> 38BU497
<b>Location:</b> Welcome Center:DHF History Room::::Storage Box	

As you can see there is considerable data on each artifact. This catalog reference has been valuable in the planning of the historic exhibit in the Welcome Center.

Joel's computer expertise has served the DHF in several arenas beyond selecting the museum software and inputting the data. He has played a key role in many major DHF projects in 2008. He was able to convert the old brochure into a working document to allow updates and changes. He has been instrumental in updating the DHF presence on the Dataw Website. He has taken many photos for DHF and organized archive photographs into files on disks. He compiled the slideshow for Larry Rowland's Fireside Chat. He has played a leadership role in putting the "Heritage Walk" project together. Thank you is not adequate for Joel's many "volunteer" hours.



P.O. Box 819 • Beaufort, SC 29901

February 2009

Dear Neighbors

To the nearly 280 households who have already joined the **Dataaw Historic Foundation** this year, we appreciate your generosity and sincerely thank you for your support. For those of you who may have missed the first 2009 membership drive opportunity, we still seek your participation. Our membership goal for this year is 365 members or 45% of Island residents.

As you read the attached 2009 edition of our newsletter, the *Tabby Tattler*, you will see the scope and magnitude of DHF projects, events and activities. The Dataaw Historic Foundation has been active for 14 years. Nearly 40 preservation projects have been completed, totaling over \$100,000. As steward for the DIOA, the DHF is responsible for both the care and maintenance of historic structures and the preservation of artifacts and archives. Your support is vital to our success.

Membership entitles you to attend all DHF special functions; but, **most importantly, it helps fund those projects which enable the rich Dataaw Island history to become an important part of the total Dataaw experience.**

Your membership is tax deductible as we are a 501 C3 organization. We need your support and welcome your participation. Please respond using the form below. (Membership is individual or per household.)

Thank you.

Pat Bell, Membership Chair



## Dataaw Historic Foundation 2009 Membership Campaign



*Your membership is tax deductible as we are a 501 C3 organization.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$250 (Benefactor) \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 (Patron) \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 (Supporter) \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 (Member)

Return form to  
Pat Bell, 226 Locust Fence or mail to  
Dataaw Historic Foundation • P.O. Box 819 • Beaufort, SC 29901