

TABBY TATTLE

Dataaw Historic Foundation Newsletter

www.DataawHistory.org

Fall 2014



From the President . . . JOHN COLGAN

Time flies when you are having fun and working at something you like to do. Looking back on this past year, I am amazed at what DHF has accomplished in such a short amount of time!

After the Dataaw community voted in February to authorize leasing of land to DHF, we concluded a 100-year/\$1 per year rental agreement on a plot across from the Cannery. The land survey is completed; a preliminary floor plan is developed; building contractors are submitting bids; fund raising plans are formulated, and we will be breaking ground next Spring. We hope all residents and Club members will consider making a donation to the Dataaw Island History & Learning Center.

Membership in DHF held steady this year. Susan Converse and Dawn Schuster are working on a plan to introduce our newer residents and Club members to our historic treasures and to the need to support their preservation.

Over the summer, our new and colorful Walking Tour Booklet was published. This booklet replaces our brochure and has more information as well. We are making this booklet available to all residents and Club members so that you will be able to take guests on self-guided tours of the Sams Plantation Tabby Complex. Many thanks to Ken Hirsch, Marilyn Peck, Joel Holden and Cindy Schafer for their contributions to this project.

Our long awaited publication, *“No Ordinary Place – the Rich History of Dataaw Island,”* has finally emerged from the editing and rewrite stage and will be on sale sometime during the first quarter of 2015. The book is nothing short of spectacular! Breathtaking photography by Dick Golobic, Jim Williams, Denise Sullivan and others is intermingled with the exciting 12,000 year history of Dataaw Island compiled by Jane Griffith, Marilyn Peck, Ken Hirsch, Joel Holden and John Colgan. The book goes on sale as DHF prepares to celebrate its 20th Anniversary of service to the Dataaw community!

In October, 110 members attended the Low Country Boil, held at the Gazebo. The “Boil” is our “thank you” party held every year for our members. We are grateful to Diane Roney and Susan Jorgensen for organizing this event after cochairing the successful Oyster Roast last Spring.

We will soon be closing out the year with *“Caroling at the Ruins”* on Monday, December 8, as part of the Dataaw Luminary Night Celebration sponsored by the Dataaw Garden Club. The Sams Plantation buildings and walkways will be lined with luminaries — beautiful and festive! Please join us and share in the good will and joy of the season.

Peace, Love, Hope and Happiness are my fervent wishes for each of you in the coming year.

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Photo, taken by Dataaw resident Jim Williams, of the 2013 Luminary Night at the Ruins. Be sure and join us this year on Monday, December 8, 2014. Stop by the Ruins for some caroling and continue to the Dataaw Gazebo for festivities sponsored by the Dataaw Garden Club!



DHF 2014

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 Tabby Tattler, Layout/Design: Cindy Schafer
 Ruins Preservation Chair: Bob Welborn

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 Volunteers: Joan Berra
 Public Relations/Grounds: Perry Gesell

Other

Technical Consultant: Larry Rowland
 DIOA Representative: Perry Gessell

If you are interested in working with the Dataw Historic Foundation contact any of the DHF Board members.

5 New Informative Signs in the Sams Family Cemetery



The cemetery layout sign located on the far side (shown in this picture) was simplified in a cleaner format with new information, including the recent discovery of the location and identities of two unmarked graves. A new sign showing the details of all interred and their relationship to William and Elizabeth Sams was installed alongside this cemetery layout sign. William Sams was the first interred in the cemetery in 1798. Another cemetery layout sign

was installed near the gate for viewing as you first enter. The chapel sign was redesigned with new images and updated information. The Sams Live Oak sign was redesigned to show the tree limbs outspread over the cemetery as described by Rev. James Julius Sams. The Chapel and the Sams Oak signs were moved to within the cemetery walls to shield them from the damaging sun. DHF Historic

Chair Joel Holden searched genealogy records and matched them to the Ground Penetration Radar survey done in 2005 to accurately diagram the burial sites. His research also corrected some inaccuracies, uncovered a grave-site mystery and made some new discoveries. (See Joel Holden's article on page 5.)

Sams Family Reunion Reception Held at Welcome Center

Dataw Historic Foundation members John and Judy Myers sponsored a small reception hosted by the DHF Board on May 6 in the Welcome Center. The purpose of the event was to introduce visiting John Bonum Sams and his sister Julia (along with their spouses) to their Beaufort Sams relatives and to show them "the old homestead." John and Julia are the great, great, great grandchildren of William Sams. (Joel Holden also calculated that they are 4th cousins to Jeanne Sams Aimar.) It was a memorable occasion for all the Sams family members in attendance. DHF also thanks Jim and Judy Myers for their donation to the Foundation.



Sams Family matriarchs, Therese Sams Colquhoun, Betty Sams and Jeanne Sams Almar were among the attendees.



John Bonum Sams and his sister Julia enjoying the party held in their honor.

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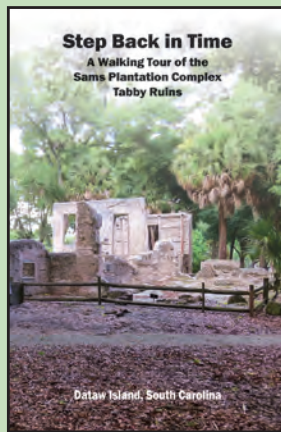
Dataw Historic Foundation
 Post Office Box 819
 Beaufort, SC 29901

Step Back in Time, A Walking Tour of the Sams Plantation Complex Tabby Ruins

Get your copy today!

This newly published DHF booklet allows residents and interested visitors to do a self-guided tour of the area. It begins with a brief history of the plantation, followed by a written guide, illustrations and a map of 12 locations within the historic site.

Copies of the booklet are available at the Cannery.



DHF Holiday Card

The first printing of this spectacular photo card featuring a picture of the Sams Plantation on Luminary Night, 2013, taken by Dataw resident Jim



Williams, sold out quickly. The second order is now available — pick up your cards before this order sells out!

Inside the 7x 5 card, is a simple inscription: **"May the Lights of the Holiday Season Brighten Up your Days."**

Packets of 8 cards for \$10 are available from:

- John Colgan (838-6748)
- Ann Craigmile (838-3713)
- Joel Holden (838-0089)
- Marilyn Peck (838-2200)
- Cindy Schafer (838-7517)



DATAW, No Ordinary Place, The rich history of Dataw Island, SC

This beautifully illustrated 116-page coffee table book with a foreword by Larry Rowland is a must for every Dataw household. It tells the story of our Island from when the first Native Americans lived here over 10,000 years ago through the plantation era to its development by Alcoa to the present.

This book has been carefully compiled over the past several years. It has been through three proofs and is now at the publishers. It will be ready for distribution sometime after the first of the year. Plans for marketing the book are now in progress. The cost of the book will be \$35. Look for details in January 2015!

Planning for the Dataw Island History & Learning Center

... JOHN COLGAN
AND JACK BROWN



Early conceptual sketch of the center by Dataw resident David Dolan

With the recent signing of a 100 year land lease agreement with the Dataw Island Owners Association, the Dataw

Historic Foundation is moving ahead with building plans for the Dataw Island History and Learning Center. Joel Holden, Tim Maher and Bill Fox have been consulting with architects and contractors to finalize building plans, conform them to Beaufort County building codes and meet ARB requirements.

The DIH&LC will be located across from the Cannery Library between the Cannery and the Sams Cemetery in the National Register historic site. The exterior walls of this modest, two-room building will be the same color as the Cannery and be topped by a similar green metal roof. But there the comparison ends!

You will step into a large, modern museum space lined with displays and instructional devices that will transport you back in time to visit Dataw's rich 12,000 year history, era by era.

Off the main room there will be an office/reference room where serious history scholars can pore over rare documents and maps and, with the aid of computers, gain a greater understanding of the region's past! In addition, there will be ample storage space that will allow DHF to finally bring all of Dataw's historic artifacts together under the same roof! Lastly, the building will have a handicap-friendly comfort facility.

When will all of this happen? We hope to "break ground" at the site in the Spring. Construction to be finished by the Fall of 2015.

The cost of the DIH&LC is estimated at \$170,000. DHF has already raised and set aside \$105,000 in its building reserve and will be seeking the remaining \$65,000 here in the Dataw community. Plans to raise the necessary funds are being developed by a DHF fund-raising committee and suggested donor levels range as follows: Lifetime (\$5,000); Heritage (\$2,500); Millennium; (\$1,000); Legacy (\$500); Merit (\$250).

DHF is an IRS approved 501c(3) public charitable institution, and all donations to it are considered to be tax deductible.

We hope that you will consider contributing to this exciting and worthwhile cause.

Archeological Excavation Preliminary Findings

... ANN CRAIGMILE

The week-long major archeological excavation project on the area behind the kitchen chimney in the plantation complex, took place in June. It was hoped that formal excavation of the foundation found in this area would provide additional insight into the structure's age and function. It was thought that the site may include an unrecorded 18th century component — possibly a cistern, indigo vat or a lime kiln.

Bob Welborn, DHF Ruins Preservation Chair, coordinated the project. The TRC Archeological firm out of Columbia performed the excavation with Ramona Grunden, TRC Senior Archaeologist, supervising the field work. Colin Brooker, DHF Architectural Design Consultant, monitored activities.

Infinite patience and attention to detail are needed during each phase of an excavation. All ground cover over the area was carefully removed then each shovelful taken from any part of the site was meticulously sifted and examined. Precise measuring, photographing and recording of data took place during the entire process.

While the complete report on the project has not been received, several items were noted in a preliminary summary of the work. There was no evidence of an indigo vat. It is believed the burn evidence found was from a lime burning pit used for making lime putty for tabby. Additional excavation of the area south of the lime pit revealed the foundation of a substantial chimney, which they think was for the tabby kitchen structure built for the original house possibly as early as 1760. This kitchen was probably leveled to form a crushed tabby floor on which they burned the lime to make the tabby used for the 1814–1819 construction of the east and west wing additions to the original house. The large kitchen chimney we now see would have been built to service the expanded house. Colin noted that this is the first time other buildings associated with the original tabby house have been discovered.

Several pottery and china shards were found while sifting each shovelful of soil removed from the area. Hopefully, the final report will reveal dates for these pieces.



While Ramona Grunden looks on, Joel Holden and John Colgan listen to Colin Brooker.



TRC assistant Pete Mayers working by what is thought to be the old chimney foundation.



(Photo on right) TRC assistant Stacey Young sifting for artifacts.

(Photo far right) Stacey excavating what is thought to be a lime burning pit.



October 20 LowCountry Boil at the Gazebo Great Food, Great Music, Great Time!

Once again the annual DHF Low Country Boil was a great success thanks to outstanding support from over 100 DHF members.

DHF Fund-raising Cochairs Diane Roney and Susan Jorgensen received many compliments about the delicious dinner of shrimp, sausage, potatoes, corn, salads and cookies provided by Reeves Outdoor Catering.

Diane and Susan appreciated the fine job done by the lady bartenders Kathy Kelenski, Kathy McShane, Paula Campbell, Jayne Krebs, Cindy Pesko, Becky McCann, Susan Converse and Dawn Shuster. They also thanked greeters Marilyn Peck, Robin Colgan and Barbara Titus along with photographer Ann Craigmile.

Dataw's own Dick Nalwasky and his band, "Sometimes Later," provided the perfect musical touch to the memorable evening. Folks lingered to enjoy and sing along with the familiar hits played by the band.

Cochair Diane Roney with DHF President John Colgan. (Cochair Susan Jorgensen had a family wedding.)



Greeters Robin Colgan and Marilyn Peck



The "Sometimes Later" band with Dataw resident Dick Nalwasky on the far left.

The Sams Family Cemetery — A New Mystery

... JOEL HOLDEN

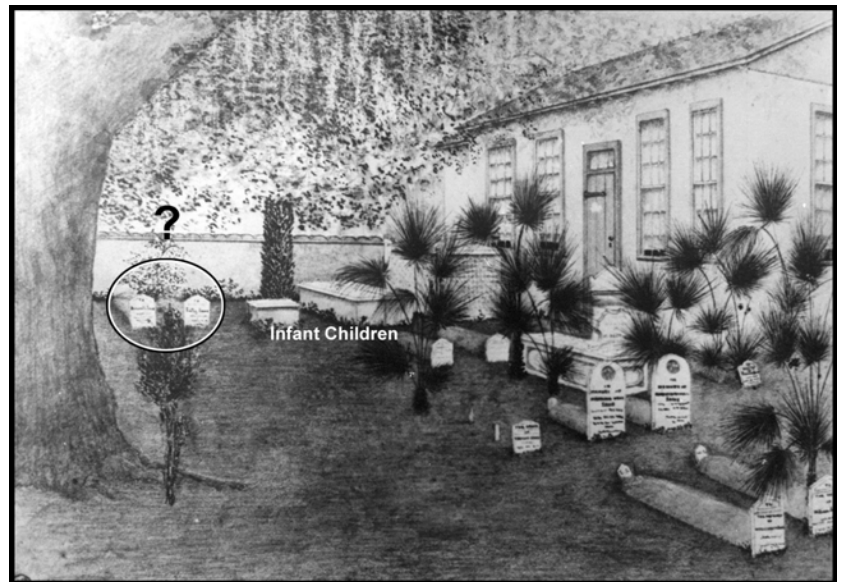
New Mystery: A sketch of the Sams cemetery by Eugenia Fripp Sams (1845–1920), shows two tombstones that do not exist today. Other parts of this cemetery sketch are accurately detailed. The last names on the two tombstones are Sams but the image is not high enough quality to decipher the first names. Who are they?

A 2005 Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey of the cemetery shows "probable" graves along this east wall of the cemetery. Lula Sams, in her 1958 document, "The Sams Family", mentions a family belief that some Sams family members may have removed markers from the cemetery and placed them in the Sams plot in Beaufort. A search of the St. Helena Episcopal Church graveyard was unproductive.

New Discovery: The parents of the four infant children in the two crypt-like tombstones are Evelina Edings Sams Fripp and James Edings Lawrence Fripp. "The Sams Family of South Carolina" published by the South Carolina Historical Magazine records that Evelina, who died in 1861, is buried beside her infant children in the Sams cemetery on Dataw. The obituary of her husband James (1864) states that he is buried alongside his wife.

The same 2005 GPR survey shows two "probable" graves to the right of the infant children. These are most certainly the children's parents, Evelina and James Fripp. No headstones exist.

On your next visit through the Sams cemetery notice the five new signs that have been installed. New and more detailed information is provided, including the relationships of all those interred to William and Elizabeth Sams, the first burials in the cemetery.



Sketch of the Sams cemetery by Eugenia Fripp Sams shows two tombstones that do not exist today. (Sketched sometime after 1855.)



The Dataw Cares Club enjoyed their tour of the Dataw ruins.

Tours of the Ruins . . . JOEL HOLDEN

There were four tours of the Sams Plantation Complex Tabby Ruins this fall. Each began with a “12,000 years of Dataw Island History” slide presentation in the Cannery by Joel Holden. The presentation was followed by a tour of our local treasure, guided by John Colgan, Joe Roney, and Joel.

The first tour was a local PEO chapter. Several Dataw residents were a part of the group.

The second was a Civil War Roundtable group from the Spring Hill Community of Sun City. Joe Roney is the president of the Low Country Civil War Roundtable and made the arrangements for the tour.

The third was a group of Dataw residents who toured the ruins as part of the Dataw Cares Club. This tour stands out as it was the first time this program was attended by solely a group of Dataw residents, and it was the first tour of the ruins to use golf carts. The group had lunch in the Pub at the conclusion of the tour.

Last was another successful OLLI class. “A Tour of Dataw Ruins” was presented with a new added feature. Often attendees are not familiar with Dataw and ask



The Dataw Cares Club used golf carts to tour the ruins . . . a “first” for our tours of the Sams Plantation Complex Tabby Ruins!

questions about the island – “How many homes?”, “What are the amenities”, etc. This time the class attendees were invited to the Clubhouse where refreshments and membership information was setup in the Tabby Room. The class enjoyed this special treat.



Participants in the OLLI class enjoyed their tour.

DHF Board Notes

Grounds Committee Chair Peter Pearks recognized Jack Borcharding as a stalwart supporter of the DHF for many years as he “adopted” the Cemetery at the end of Cotton Dike Road by regularly cleaning up storm debris and arranging with Christi Henry to have it removed. He and Martha have sold their home and are relocating in the North. *The DHF thanks you Jack for all your help over the years and wishes you and Martha the best in your new home.*

Peter also reports that 241 Heritage Walk bricks have been sold to date. The Board hopes residents will consider “giving themselves” a brick for Christmas. All proceeds from the brick sales go toward the History & Learning Center. Peter was also responsible for the construction and placement of the five new signs in the Sams Family cemetery.

Membership Cochairs Dawn Schuster and Susan Converse report a total of 324 DHF members for 2014. They are preparing for the 2015 Membership Campaign, which will begin in January.

Dawn and Susan also organized a wine and cheese party for newer Dataw residents and Club members held on Monday, November 10, 2014, to introduce them to the Island’s historic treasures.

Vice President and Public Relations Cochair Marilyn Peck has spent many hours getting the new coffee table book to the publisher and putting together a marketing plan for the publication. She also contributed to the walking tour booklet and is managing the sale of the 2013 luminary holiday cards.

Treasurer Ron Jacobs has done an outstanding job taking charge of the DHF finances. His monthly reports are vital to DHF operations. At the November 3 board meeting, Ron was elected to serve as Vice President/Treasurer of DHF.

Fund Raising Cochairs Diane Roney and Susan Jorgensen organized the sold-out, highly successful LowCountry Boil at the Gazebo on October 20. This event is planned as a thank

you to our DHF members, but they reported a nearly \$800 profit from the evening. Now they are looking towards the annual Oyster Roast scheduled for March 23, 2015.

Historic Chair Joel Holden put together an informative slide show that is shown to those touring the ruins and has also designed an effective format to showcase our ruins to those coming on the Island. Joel has also been a key player in making the History & Learning Center become a reality. His recent research on the Sams Family Cemetery is the feature article in this publication.

Long-Range Planning Chair Jack Brown has also played a major role in making the History & Learning Center become a reality. Ten years ago, under his DHF presidency, this project was listed as a long-range goal of the Foundation. He has outlined a detailed plan for raising the additional \$65,000 needed for the construction of the Center. This campaign is scheduled to begin shortly.

Public Relations Cochair (Communications) Cindy Schafer has been invaluable to the DHF. She has been responsible for all DHF flyers, and publications. Her input on the holiday cards, Walking Tour booklet and the coffee table book has expedited bringing these projects to fruition.

Ruins Preservation Chair Bob Welborn is awaiting the final report from Colin Brooker and TRC Archaeological firm on the excavation behind the kitchen chimney.

Director at-Large (Volunteers) Joan Berra has scheduled a docent training session on January 12, 2015 from 9–11 AM.

President John Colgan has presided over what has been perhaps the busiest and most productive year for the DHF. Under his leadership, the DHF Board has seen all of the above events and projects accomplished. In addition, John’s knowledge of history has resulted in several articles in the *Tabby Tattler* and *Dateline*.



2015 DHF Membership Drive



The 2015 DHF Membership Drive will start in January 2015. Membership information will be placed in all message boxes. Information will also be available on our website.

www.Datawhistory.org

We only have one past and, if it is destroyed, it is gone forever.
Preservation is the one thing we can do to ensure that future generations will have a past to appreciate.

Help us to take care of this beautiful place called Dataw Island that we all love so much!

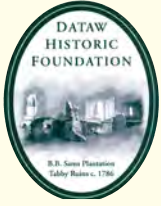


WANTED — DHF DOCENTS!

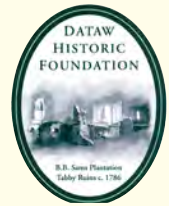
As the ruins are one of the prime focal points of our wonderful Island, the DHF hopes you will consider becoming a docent. Since requests for outside and in-house tours are increasing and plans are in full swing for the new History & Learning Center, we urge you to assist us as we endeavor to educate all residents and visitors on our unique history. There has never been a more exciting time to become part of the DHF team.



A docent training session will be held on Monday, January 12, 2015, from 9–11. Call Joan Berra, 838–9935, for additional information.



DHF Dataw Heritage Walk Order Form



*The Dataw Heritage Walk —
A living legacy to those who have made Dataw
the very special place it is today.*

Brick Cost: \$150. Please use one order form per brick.
Fill in squares with inscription letters using one letter or space per square.

□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□

First 2 lines: Limit of 15 characters per line, including spaces
Third line: Year of property acquisition or move to Dataw or employment

Brick examples:



ORDERED BY:

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Return Order Form & Check Payable to 'Dataw Historic Foundation'
to: **Peter Pearks, 1148 Palmetto Point, Dataw Island**
or mail to: **Dataw Historic Foundation, PO Box 819, Beaufort, SC 29901**



Add your family brick to the Heritage Walk this holiday season!
If you have not done so, purchase your brick now and become a part of the Dataw Heritage Walk — a living legacy to those who have made Dataw the very special place it is today. The engraved bricks include residents who came to Dataw Island over a quarter century ago, up to and including residents who recently moved to Dataw. This holiday season would be a good time to add *your* mark to Dataw's rich history.

All revenue raised goes towards creating the DATAW ISLAND HISTORY & LEARNING CENTER . . .
a site which will become a significant part
of the legacy of Dataw.

To purchase a brick, use the form above.

**Forms are also available in the Cannery
and on the DHF website (www.DatawHistory.org)**