

TABBY TATTLER

Dataaw Historic Foundation Newsletter

www.DataawHistory.org

Spring 2015

Construction Plans for the DIH&LC are Underway

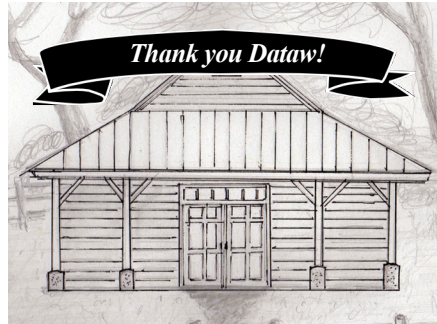
... ANN CRAIGMILE

The new Dataaw Island History & Learning Center has an address — 285 Dataaw Drive! It 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 will be topped by a similar green metal roof. Building plans went before the ARB for preliminary review on April 27.

The need for the Center originated back in the mid-1990s when major artifacts recovered on the Island by Alcoa were boxed and sent to either the Arsenal in downtown Beaufort or to SC Department of Archives in Columbia as Dataaw did not have anyone qualified to maintain historic artifacts. The Dataaw Ruins Committee was formed in the mid-1990s, and it was determined that this group of interested residents would oversee preservation and maintain the substantial collection of artifacts and archives. This committee was successful in retrieving boxed artifacts sent to Beaufort, and thus began the quest for suitable storage space on the Island. The Ruins Committee became the Dataaw Historic Foundation, and by the early 2000s one of its long-term goals was to create a dedicated space to house the growing collections of the Foundation. Your support with yearly membership dues; your attendance at special events; your purchase of “Heritage Walk” bricks, note cards and holiday cards, raffle tickets and the recently published history book, *DATAW, No Ordinary Place*, helped the DHF raise \$105,000 toward achieving this goal.

In order to raise the additional \$65,000 needed to reach the \$170,000 projected building cost of the project, the DHF launched a special capital fund raising campaign in February, 2015. By mid-April, the DHF had raised over \$90,000 (40% above its goal) from over 150 donors! The additional funds will make the Center into a modern museum space lined with dramatic displays and interactive instructional devices where residents and guests can delve into the comprehensive archives

DIH&LC Plans
continued on page 3




Jack Brown shows a piece of hardware from one of the barns on the Sams Plantation. Artifact was held privately and recently returned to the DHF.

Think about it! ... JOEL HOLDEN
William and Elizabeth Hext Sams had seven children, all boys — Robert, William Jr., John, Francis, Lewis Reeve, Berners Barnwell, and Edward Hext. The first four boys were born on Wadmalaw Island, Charleston County. Lewis, Berners, and Edward were born on Dataaw. Robert, William Jr., and Francis never married.

But John, Lewis, Berners, and Edward married and had many children, providing William and Elizabeth with 36 grandchildren. Unfortunately William was alive only for the birth of the first two grandchildren and Elizabeth was alive for only the first six grandchildren. William and Elizabeth had a total of at least 124 great-grandchildren, but had died long before any of them were born.

Do you wonder how many great-great-grandchildren William and Elizabeth had? Probably more than 500 but that's research for another day.



Mark Your Calendar Dates to Remember

DHF ANNUAL LOWCOUNTRY BOIL
Monday, October 19, 2015

DHF 17TH ANNUAL OYSTER ROAST
Monday, March 21, 2016

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DHF 2015

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



The President's Corner . . . JOHN COLGAN

2015 is a special year for DHF. It marks our 20th Anniversary! In 1995, a small group of caring residents petitioned the Dataw Island Owners Association to do something to permanently preserve the Sams plantation ruins. The DIOA therefore established "the Ruins Committee." Three years later that committee became the Dataw Historic Foundation, a public charitable foundation under Section 501c(3) of the IRS tax code and, as the saying goes, "The rest is history!"

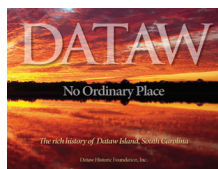
So much is happening at DHF that I almost don't know where to begin! Our *Step Back in Time* walking tour booklet was published to rave reviews. This 22 page, 4-color booklet is free for the taking. Copies can be found at the Cannery library. You can now self-tour your guests through the impressive Sams Plantation Tabby Complex simply by following the numbered steps and reading about each structure. Enjoy!

Speaking of books, The long-awaited *Dataw, No Ordinary Place* has arrived! Nearly three years in the making, *No Ordinary Place* is the most complete history of Dataw Island ever attempted. Replete with extraordinary photography and archival photos and illustrations, this beautifully made "coffee-table" book is the perfect addition to your living or family room. An inspection copy is available at the Club reception desk. Please take a look. Call Cindy Schafer, Marilyn Peck or Diane Roney to order your own copy. All of the net proceeds from the sale of the book go to the Dataw History & Learning Center (DIH&LC) construction fund.

And that's the other piece of good news! The building plans for the DIH&LC are finished and they are being inspected now to ensure that they comply with all applicable building and fire codes. Once compliance is confirmed, the plans will be put out to bid. We are looking forward to breaking ground in a couple of months!

I would like to express our deepest gratitude to the Dataw community for the overwhelming response to our fund-raising effort. We are more than met our goal to raise \$65,000 to complete the construction of the building.

This issue of the *Tattler* has photos showing what a good time we all had at the annual Oyster Roast. This popular event has been a perennial harbinger of spring here on Dataw for the past 18 years. Over 240 members pried open and ate the delicious oysters, washing them down with their favorite beverages. Spicy gumbo, chicken, and lots of delicious side dishes preceded an array of scrumptious desserts — all to the festive music of the *Sometimes Later* band. A wonderful time was had by all — and 15 lucky people walked away with spectacular prizes to boot!



Dataw, No Ordinary Place

Sales of this beautifully illustrated hard-cover book about the rich history of Dataw Island have been strong. The DHF is grateful to Cindy Schafer for her multiple contributions to assure ample opportunities for ordering and efficient distribution to all residents. She went "above and beyond" when she had 32 cartons of books delivered to her home and arranged for their distribution!

Copies of this limited edition are available, but may not be for long, so get yours today. Contact Cindy at 838-7517, Marilyn Peck at 838-2200 or Diane Roney at 838-4972. Price is \$40 with all proceeds from sales going towards the construction of the Dataw Island History and Learning Center.



Cindy Schafer (left) and Marilyn Peck (right) selling copies of *Dataw, No Ordinary Place* .

**TABBY TATTLE
Spring 2015**

**The Tabby Tattler is a
biannual publication of the
Dataw Historic Foundation,
Dataw Island, South Carolina.**

President: John Colgan
(838-6748, jcolgan@gmail.com)

Vice President: Marilyn Peck
(838-2200, jayjaypeck@aol.com)

Executive Editor: Ann Craigmile
(838-3713, anncraigmile@gmailmail.com)

Layout/Design: Cindy Schafer
(838-7517, cindyschafer21@gmail.com)

**Dataw Historic Foundation
Post Office Box 819
Beaufort, SC 29901**

2014 Excavation Behind Kitchen Chimney — Final Report

... JOHN HUNTLEY, RUINS PRESERVATION CHAIR

The preservation of the antebellum Sams Family plantation ruins on Dataw Island and the collection, recordation, and preservation of artifacts associated with it continue to be core responsibilities and tasks of the DHF. To this end, we maintain and preserve our historic sites and structures plus collect, record, and preserve artifacts related to our history for posterity.

Investigations were conducted in the southwest corner of the Sams Tabby Complex, south of the kitchen chimney from May 19-22, 2014. Previous excavation conducted in the 1980s revealed a small tabby foundation not aligned with the complex and foundation walls for a third building. This work was poorly documented, leaving use and building chronology unclear. This excavation was conducted in an effort to resolve questions of use and chronology.

One of the suggested functions has been as an indigo vat for processing the plant into the iconic blue dye. This was found unlikely because processing indigo requires a series of vats. The test unit behind the chimney revealed evidence of shell burning, which in turn is evidence for tabby or lime production. It was suggested that this area and its environs were where high quality plaster for interior walls was prepared. This hypothesis was based on the small size of the structure. The conversion of shell to tabby constituents in large quantities would have required a larger and more sophisticated set up than found.

Investigations at the back end resulted in more new questions regarding function and chronology than were answered. Artifacts found in the area chimney are somewhat earlier than those found in other excavations at the site. This chimney is larger than is typical for slave housing and suggests that it may be a kitchen that predates the Revolution. Regardless of how the area was utilized during and after the B. B. Sams' tenure, there was something there before he began his expansion to the plantation's house in the early 1800s. It may have been built by William Sams or perhaps was there when William bought Dataw. It is apparent that the area was used in other ways, and served more than one function over the years.

Luminary Night — Our Gift to the Island ... JOHN COLGAN

The DHF expresses its deep appreciation to Donna McKeown and Kathy Paulik for once again organizing Luninary Night and, in the process, creating such special memories for all of us here on Dataw Island. Special thanks go to Peter Pearks and his team for getting the complex ready for the event as many luminaries had to be methodically placed and then lit.

The Dataw Historic Foundation was privileged to light up the Sams Plantation Tabby Complex. The sight of the luminaries outlining the walls and windows of the Ruins offered a mystical backdrop for the Bethesda Christian Fellowship Church Choir's stirring spirituals. The large crowd certainly got into the Holiday spirit — it was truly a special evening for residents. The tradition of Luminary Night goes back to that first Dataw Christmas in 1985 when a handful of "Pioneer" residents and staff members gathered to decorate a small Christmas tree with ornaments from their own homes, then sang carols to honor the season and celebrate their fellowship.

Because of the efforts of the Garden Club, with the support of the DIYC and the DHF, this wonderful and cherished tradition continues to distinguish Dataw as a true "Island of Friends."



DHF Seeking Solutions to Structural Issues

Structural cracks in the ceiling of the Dairy/Cold House have caused concern for the DHF. On April 9, John Huntley, Ruins Preservation Chair, coordinated a meeting with Bennett Preservation Engineering out of Charleston, SC, to assess the issues and discuss solutions. John along with John Colgan, Jack Brown and DHF Consultant Colin Brooker met with representatives from the firm. The firm will prepare a full structural analysis and detail any remedial measures considered necessary.

Construction Plans for the DIH&LC *(Continued from page 1)*

depicting Dataw's rich 12,000-year history. Equally important is that there will be ample storage space for the overwhelming number of artifacts and archives that have been collected over the years. Right now, except for the Historic Display in the Welcome Center, all artifacts and archives are in boxes, which have been moved several times. At present, most are stored in a building by the administrative and maintenance buildings, some are in private homes and some are still in Columbia. Each move increases the risk of loss, breakage and deterioration.

The DHF will continue to welcome donations to this capital fund drive up through the completion of the building. Additional funds will be used for furnishings, displays, workstations and getting the facility "up and running." In designing the display area, the Foundation hopes to work once again with historic exhibit consultant Carol Poplin from The History Workshop in Charleston. Carol directed the creation of the Dataw History at the Welcome Center.

As we proceed with getting permits and production bids, a ground-breaking ceremony will be planned in the next couple of months. We hope you will help us celebrate this significant contribution to Dataw's heritage which you have made possible.

DHF Oyster Roast — One for the Books!

The 17th Annual Dataw Historic Foundation Oyster Roast was one for the books! The rainy weather of Monday, March 23, refused to cooperate and forced a change of venue from the Cannery to the Community Center. Many helped make the smooth transition: Kevin Ennis, the DIC Board, Christi Henry, and DHF members and family. The “sold out” event had 252 reservations and realized an overall profit from raffle and roast of \$8,500 — a record. All proceeds went to the construction of the Dataw History and Learning Center.

Everyone raved about the “cleanest, plump best oysters ever” provided by new event caterers, Keith Potts and John Schott. Co-Chairs Susan Jorgensen and Kathy Kelenski received many compliments, not only on the oysters but also on the rest of the menu of sausage and chicken gumbo, grilled and BBQ chicken, cornbread, potato salad, green bean salad. Becky McCann and Barbara Kyne found 24 women who provided an endless selection of delicious desserts. Wine, beer, soda, and water flowed steadily, thanks to bartenders George Beck, Jack Brown, John Huntley, Paul Jorgensen, John McShane, Steve Pescoe, Joe Roney, John Schafer and Pat Stanton. Marilyn Peck printed the name tags and greeted guests. And the upbeat spirit of the evening was enhanced by the upbeat music of Dataw’s own Dick Nalwasky and his band, *Sometimes Later*.

This year’s “super” raffle of 15 outstanding prizes was a huge success thanks to Kathy McShane and Cindy Pescoe, Raffle Co-Chairs. The beautiful grand prize “*Green Heron on Lily Pads*” painting by artist Kathy Crowther, was won by Nancy and Paul Hahn.

With the many enthusiastic DHF volunteers who planned and worked, we fooled Mother Nature and pulled off an oyster event thoroughly enjoyed by all. The Dataw Historic Foundation thanks all who supported our fund raiser, and we say, “See you next year!”



2015 Oyster Roasts Co-Chairs Kathy Kelenski and Susan Jorgensen did a fantastic job!



Dessert Co-Chairs Becky McCann, Betty Huntley and Barbara Kyne



Raffle Co-Chairs Cindy Pescoe and Kathy McShane



Greeters Cindy Schafer, Marilyn Peck and Robin Colgan



Bartenders John Schafer and John McShane



Bartenders Paul Jorgensen, John Huntley and Jack Brown



Bartender Steve Pescoe



Safely out of the rain — plenty of plump oysters!



Dataw’s Dick Nalwasky on the harmonica with the “Sometimes Later” band

Dataw Historic Foundation 2015 Oyster Roast SUPER Raffle Winners

1. “Green Heron on Lily Pads” by Kathy Crowther won by Nancy and Paul Hahn.
2. \$100 Clearview gift certificate won by Alice Massey.
3. \$100 Saltus gift certificate won by Mary Hanby.
4. Framed “Luminary Night at the Dataw Ruins” by Carol Luzzi won by Lee Martin.
5. Carved Blue Heron by Jerry Hubbard won by the Haxbys.
6. Gentleman’s Bourbon Basket from Bill’s won by Peggy Hoff.
7. Oyster knife from Modern Jewelers won by Rose Bowman.
8. \$100 Redcap gift certificate won by Diane Roney.
9. \$250 Coastal Company 3M window film won by Mary Carter.
10. Pair of handmade tabby planters by Rick Wightman won by Connie Davison.
11. Ceramic pitcher from Grace & Glory won by Susan Converse.
12. \$100 Stuckey Furniture Showroom gift certificate won by Anne Schmitt.
13. Wooden serving pieces and custom candle from Scout Southern Market won by Linda Gans.
14. Mango wood tray and tile coasters from Joli Home Accents won by Robert Dooner.
15. Cookbook by Debbi Covington won by Phil and June Meekers.

Tours of the Ruins . . . JOEL HOLDEN

There were six more presentations in the Cannery of Joel Holden's *12,000 years of Dataw Island History*. The presentations were followed by tours of our Beaufort County local treasure, the Sams Plantation Complex Tabby Ruins. Assisting as tour docents were Jack Brown, John Colgan, Joe Roney, and Ron Jacobs.

The first tour was for new Dataw Residents. A group of new members of Dataw Island were very interested in learning about the history of Dataw and appreciated the detailed tour of the plantation ruins. Before the *Dataw History and Ruins Tour*, the group attended a wine and cheese "Get Acquainted" party.

Second was a group from Tide Point, an assistant living community on HHI. They were an enthusiastic group of senior citizens, complete with many questions and comments. The third group was the St. Peters church docents, who were very interested in local history and especially interested in the Sams Family Cemetery.

Fourth was a repeat of the Beaufort Senior Leadership program for the third year in a row. In previous years they finished the tour at the Cannery with a wine and cheese "Get acquainted" party. A scheduling conflict this year moved the party to the general purpose room in the Community Center which worked out well. The fifth group was docents from the Beaufort History Museum, who were very interested in Dataw history. They had many questions and provided some interesting thoughts.

The last group of 35 was a scheduled Spring OLLI class from USCB. This has become a popular class each semester, and it fills quickly. Attendees are always impressed with the presentation and tour.

A Special *Thank You* to Sonny Bishop

On February 10, the Garden Club held a special dinner meeting, and the featured speaker was Sonny Bishop. As a boy Sonny helped his family farm on Dataw, and he shared many interesting stories about the Island. At the conclusion of the evening when the Garden Club went to give him a \$100 check for his presentation, Sonny directed that it be made out to the Dataw Historic Foundation. *Thank you Sonny and thanks to the Garden Club.*

National Arbor Day Celebrated at the Dataw Ruins

On April 24, the Dataw Garden Club and the Dataw Conservancy jointly planted a heritage orange tree on the site in the ruins where Williams Sams first started planting orange trees in the late 1700s. This 35-acre site is believed to be the beginning of the US citrus industry as oranges from this grove were shipped to Charleston and other northern destinations. Florida did not start planting oranges until 1821.

Ginny Hall-Apecilla, who organized the celebration, welcomed attendees. Dataw Conservancy president John Colgan told how significant the grove on Dataw was to the start of the US citrus industry. Nancy Day, president of the Dataw Garden Club, unveiled the plaque placed by the tree signifying the event.



New Dataw residents toured the ruins, after attending a wine and cheese "Get Acquainted Party" hosted by DHF.

DIH&LC Building Fund Gets Boost from DPBG

Every year members of the Dataw Propane Buyers Group (DPBG) vote to gift their excess dues income to a deserving local charitable organization. This year, the group chose the DHF to receive \$1,000. This gift is specifically earmarked for the Dataw Island History and Learning Center (DIH&LC) building fund. DPBG is the first Island organization to donate to the fund. Mike Valadez, administrator of the group, presented the check to DHF President John Colgan on March 19. John thanked Mike and the group by saying, "We are grateful to the members of the DPBG for their generous support of the DIH&LC this year and for their past support of DHF's goals to preserve Dataw Island's rich history for current residents as well as for all future generations who will make their home here."

DHF is planning to honor the DPBG by placing the group's name on a benefactor's plaque in the DIH&LC once the building is completed.

HBF "Dinner & a Lecture" Series

In February, Joel Holden presented "*The History of Dataw Island and the Sams Plantation Complex Tabby Ruins*" at the Verdier House to a standing-room only audience of over 70 people. He also showed the video tour of the complex which he produced. Among those attending the event were noted historian Dr. Larry Rowland and several members of the Sams family.



Nancy Day, and John Colgan by the newly planted tree.

2015 Dataw Historic Foundation Members

Membership Categories

- Lifetime Members: Those whose lifetime contribution to the DHF is \$2,500 or more.
- Honorary Members: Limited to those with an ancestral connection to Dataw Island. This includes Sams family descendents and family descendents of other prior owners of Dataw Island.
- Friends of DHF: Those who have made a significant contribution to or have a special connection to DHF.
 - Benefactors (\$250)
 - Patrons (\$100)
 - Supporters (\$50)
 - Members (\$30)

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 James & Peggy Wynne

Our history makes us unique among residential communities, and our efforts to preserve and display that history are fun, educational and important to our future.

Your support is important to us!

Not yet a member of DHF?
 Fill out the MEMBERSHIP FORM below.

Help support our efforts to preserve this beautiful island that we all love!

QUESTIONS?
 Call Membership Co-Chairs
 Susan Converse at 838-5581 or Dawn Schuster at 838-2460

Not a member of DHF yet? Join today and help us in our efforts to preserve this beautiful island!

Dataw Historic Foundation
2015 Membership Campaign

The Dataw Historic Foundation is a non-profit, all volunteer organization.
 Your membership contribution represents a tax-deductible donation.

LAST NAME _____ FIRST _____ SPOUSE _____

ADDRESS _____

E-MAIL _____ PHONE _____

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

Make check payable to 'Dataw Historic Foundation, Inc.'

This form may be returned by mail to: **Dataw Historic Foundation, PO Box 819, Beaufort, SC 29901**
 or placed in Susan Converse's mailbox at **488 B.B. Sams Drive, Dataw Island**

DHF Board Notes

President John Colgan notes that this has been an especially busy and exciting time for the DHF Board as so many important projects and events have been on the agenda. Since January the board has successfully launched the Capital Fund–Raising Campaign; released its coffee–table book, *DATAW, No Ordinary Place*; promoted its walking tour booklet of the ruins, *Step Back in Time*; continued to sell bricks in the Heritage Walk; conducted a successful 2015 DHF Membership Campaign; and hosted a sold–out Oyster Roast with record breaking profits.

The Board welcomed Recording Secretary Barbara Titus back and thanked Kathy Kelenski and Diane Roney for filling in while she was recovering.

Treasurer Ron Jacobs has had a big job coordinating cash flows from all events and projects. He distributes itemized reports at each meeting.

Director of Long–Range Planning, Jack Brown has been pleased with the way in which Island residents have responded to the Capital Campaign for the new Learning Center. He thanks his Assistant Chair, Diane Roney, and the committee members Marilyn Peck, Marianne Beck, Cathy Crocker, Larry Scoville and Bob Shields. The funds raised thus far will insure that the center will have professional displays and use interactive computer technology to provide a valuable resource for the community. The center will also provide much needed space for storage, meetings, lectures and teaching sessions.

Fund–Raising Co–Chairs, Susan Jorgensen and Kathy Kelenski, thanked everyone who contributed to the success of the Oyster Roast, which realized a net profit of over \$3,000. Cindy Pescoe and Kathy McShane coordinated a spectacular 15–item raffle, which produced a net profit of over \$5,000. With over 250 anticipated attendees and steady rain, they were forced to move the event from the Ruins site to the Community Center — a huge undertaking! Their energetic team with support from the Community Center staff, Ted Bartlett, Christi Henry and the DIC Board made possible what appeared as a seamless transition to all who enjoyed the evening. They have begun plans for the fall Lowcountry Boil.

Membership Co–Chairs, Dawn Schuster and Susan Converse, reported that as of March 30, DHF had a total of 317 members. That figure includes 10 Benefactors, 57 Patrons, 94 Supporters and 156 members. Their tireless efforts are greatly appreciated as the membership drive is the lifeline of the Foundation.

Peter Pearks, Grounds Chair, noted that five more bricks have been sold this year bringing the total to 253. The Board thanked Peter for coordinating the beautiful luminary display in the ruins and also acknowledged his diligence in keeping the “Heritage Walk” clear.

Historic Chair, Joel Holden, is coordinating the construction process for the new History and Learning Center. Plans will be submitted to the ARB for preliminary review on April 27, and he expects final construction drawings soon. The process is taking longer than anticipated.

Joel has successfully lead six tours of the ruins as well as made a presentation for the Historic Beaufort Foundation. He has created an excellent power point show, “*A Walk through the Ruins*,” which he uses for tours. It is also available to all docents conducting tours.

Joan Berra, Docent Training Chair, announced that DHF has five newly trained docents: Lenda Jablonski, Ginny Apicella, Lois Smithson, Elizabeth Grout and Ron Jacobs. Joel Holden has assisted in the training and more training sessions are planned. If anyone is interested, call Joan at 838–9935 or email her at jaglesslady@yahoo.com.

Public Relations Co–Chairs, Marilyn Peck and Cindy Schafer, have worked tirelessly on producing, publicizing and distributing the new book. To date over 500 copies have been sold. A nice write–up promoting the book appeared in the April 8th issue of *Lowcountry Weekly*. A ground breaking celebration for the new History and Learning Center is being planned, and they are looking into speakers for the fall.

Ruins Preservation Chair John Huntley expressed disappointment in the final report submitted by TRC Consultants on the kitchen excavation performed last spring. Findings were mostly inconclusive. His focus has now turned to repairing cracks in the Dairy/Cold Room roof, and he is working with Bennett Preservation Engineering to remedy the threat.



2015 Board of Directors

Seated: Joel Holden, Susan Converse, Jack Brown, Barbara Titus

Standing: Kathy Kelenski, Ron Jacobs, Dawn Schuster, Diane Roney, Joe Roney, John Huntley, Marilyn Peck, Ann Craigmile, John Colgan, Mariann Beck, Susan Jorgensen

Absent: Joan Berra, Ken Hirsch, Peter Pearks and Cindy Schafer