

TABBY TATTLER

Dataw Historic Foundation Newsletter

www.DatawHistory.org

Fall 2019



An Urgent Message from the President . . . MARILYN PECK

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the fall 2019 *Tabby Tattler*. My letter to you in this edition concerns an issue that the Dataw Historic Foundation and its members (*one of the highest memberships of any club on the island — we are almost 300 strong*) and all Dataw residents are facing regarding the preservation and the protection of its Sams Plantation historic site.

The Dataw Island Club is looking for land to build pickle ball courts. It is now in the process of conducting focus groups for residents to learn about and express their opinions on five different sites. One of the five areas that the DIC is looking at is in front of the plantation ruins between the Cotton Dike golf course holes one and two. This land, owned by the DIOA, is within the historic site boundaries.

The ruins on this land have been designated by the State of South Carolina as the “*most complete example of a Sea Island Cotton Plantation in the US.*” Contained within this area is the Cold Room, with the only intact, pitched tabby roof building found in the world. The entire complex is on the National Register of Historic Places. DHF has had this land surveyed by the Senior Archaeologist for TRC Companies in Columbia. The archaeologist, who has worked on the site ever since Alcoa bought the island, has drawn very clean boundary lines of where the historic land starts and ends. A portion of the pickle ball courts would be within 100 feet of the ruins. Vibrations from the construction alone could be detrimental to these fragile structures.

The National Register recognizes a property’s integrity using seven specific criteria for a listing. They include: Setting, Location, Design, Workmanship, Materials, Feeling and Association. In the opinion of several of our consultants, putting a pickle ball court on or near the historic site would have an adverse effect on four of the seven criteria for integrity, which could impact our listing of the historic site on the National Register.

The DHF and DIOA boards have a responsibility to preserve the plantation ruins not only for current Dataw residents but also for future generations. Since 2016, the Sams Tabby Ruins have attracted over 2,000 visitors from 48 states and nine foreign countries. For many years, our volunteer DHF docents have given innumerable tours to off-island history buffs. New this year, commercial tour buses include the Dataw historic ruins in their offerings since we are situated between Beaufort and the new Reconstruction National Park. Today the Dataw Ruins remain one of the two unique amenities that set Dataw Island apart from other competing communities; the other is the Marina. Dataw Island is marketed for its “Historical Charm, Natural Beauty.” The tabby plantation ruins are a critical part of the “Historical Charm.”

DHF has been able to preserve the ruins for the last 20 years due to the continued financial support from our members, many members of the Sams family and other members of the Beaufort community. That support includes \$210,000 for preservation efforts and \$208,000 for the construction of the History and Learning Center, for a total of \$418,000.

The issue of using this land for pickle ball will be brought before all DIOA residents to vote on sometime within the next few months. We, the DHF Board, are asking you to vote **no** to letting the DIC have this historic land for this purpose. We have to consider what is more important to the future, and we vote for continuing to preserve our treasured historic site.

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.

(Below) Card given to guests at the 2011 Fireside Chat, celebrating Dataw’s inclusion of its plantation ruins on the prestigious list of historic properties by the National Register of Historic Places.



(Below) Our beautiful Sams Plantation Ruins, aglow with hundreds of luminaries during the 2018 Luminary Night.



DHF BOARD 2019 OFFICERS

President: Marilyn Peck
Vice President/Treasurer: Susan Converse
Vice President/Volunteers: Diane Roney
Recording Secretary: Kitty Trice
Corresponding Secretary: Joe Roney

BOARD COMMITTEES CHAIRMEN

Historic Chair: John Colgan
Long-Range Planning Chair: Jack Brown
Ruins Preservation/Grounds Chair: Tom Watkins
Membership Chair: Marj Shymske
Public Relations Chair: Valerie Hatcher
Tabby Tattler Editors: Kathy Kelenski, Kathy McShane
Fundraising Co-Chairs: Arleen Cassutti, Kathy Stanton

DIRECTORS AT-LARGE

MT O'Brien, William Riski

TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS

Peter Pearks, Larry Rowland, Cindy Schafer
DIOA Representative: Steve Wexler

If you are interested in working with the DHF,
contact any of the DHF Board members.

Sea Island Cotton BY BILL RISKI

In the late 1700's, a superior type of cotton made its way from the British West Indies to the Lowcountry of South Carolina. By careful seed selection, this cotton evolved into Sea Island Cotton. It was recognized as the finest cotton ever grown.

Only about 360 families, out of 1.6 million families living in the South in the 1800's, had the wealth, ambition, and the mobility to start cotton plantations on the sea islands of South Carolina. From 1790, when William Elliott produced the first commercial crop of Sea Island Cotton on Hilton Head Island, to 1861, when all the plantation owners fled the area after the Battle of Port Royal, sea island cotton generated great wealth for them. This unique cotton grew on James, Johns, Wadmalaw, Edisto, Dataw and St. Helena islands, to name a few. Over 500 million pounds of Sea Island Cotton were produced and exported through Charleston to foreign markets, primarily England. For this, they were paid \$3.6 billion (2018 value) in the first half of the 19th Century.

Sea Island Cotton was a small percentage of all cotton grown in the South. By 1860, the southern U.S. cotton belt from the Carolinas to Texas produced two-thirds of the world's cotton. Almost 90% of the cotton imports to England came from the United States — 1.6 billion pounds of cotton per year. Many in the South felt that if it came to war, Britain would support the South, ensuring a swift victory. This U.S. cotton dominance is what drove South Carolina Senator James Henry Hammond (1807–1864) to taunt northern sympathizers on the U.S. Senate floor in an 1858 speech where he said, in part: *"You dare not make war on cotton no power on earth dares make war upon it. Cotton is king."*

The British textile industry around Lancashire suffered a severe economic depression and famine from 1861–1867, due in large part to the lack of cotton exports from the U.S. during the war. However, Britain formally remained neutral during our Civil War.

During the war, the only place Sea Island Cotton continued to be planted was on St. Helena Island, by freedmen. There were attempts after the war to grow Sea Island Cotton on several sea islands, but they failed. Sea Island Cotton, the best of the best, effectively died off over the next few decades. It never again came close to the production quantities achieved before the Civil War. What little resurgence it had was dealt a fatal blow with the arrival of the boll weevil in South Carolina in 1918.

Sea Island Cotton was a casualty of a war and a bug. Though it generated enormous wealth for a few, it required great suffering by many.



Botanical illustration of the sea island cotton plant & flower by Franz Eugen Köhler from 1897.

Annual Low Country Boil

On October 21, 80 DHF members descended on the Gazebo at the Marina for the annual Low Country Boil fundraiser. Jimmy Fitts catered the event, serving up delicious shrimp, kielbasa, multiple styles of chicken, corn, potatoes, cole slaw and apple cobbler. Fundraising co-chairs, Arleen Cassutti and Kathy Stanton, are to be congratulated on another successful event. Thank you also to the volunteers who helped set up, clean up, bartend and greet our members. Apologies for no photos of the event, but apparently everyone was having too good a time to remember to do so!

Pledge the Pink participants meet the DHF ghosts! On the right is a PTP participant standing behind the cut out featuring a mid-1800's style dress.



Pledge the Pink BY KATHLEEN MCSHANE

The DHF was among multiple organizations and groups of Dataw residents who volunteered their time, resources and creative juices to support the 9th annual Pledge the Pink 30-mile run/walk breast cancer event held October 25-27. Pledge the Pink Foundation is a non-profit public charity dedicated to funding breast cancer screening, treatment and research. Dataw Island was proud to be the second of the three ten-mile legs of this weekend long event. Our island was festooned in pink as 1,500 runners and walkers were treated to Dataw's renowned beauty and hospitality.

Among the stops on the course were the Sams Plantation Ruins and the History & Learning Center. At the Ruins, runners and walkers were greeted by the ghostly presence of DHF members Arleen Cassutti, Diane Roney, Kathy Stanton and Kitty Trice. In addition, DHF created a photo-op for the PTP participants, and Kathy Kelenski took photos of all who stopped to have their pictures taken with the ghosts or behind the cut out of a mid-1800's style dress.

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words BY TERESA BRIDGES

It's nothing short of a miracle that an 1840's daguerreotype* of B.B. Sams' son, Robert, and an 1850's ambrotype* of Robert's cousin and wife, Sarah, now grace the walls of the History and Learning Center.

During last year's Sams family reunion hosted by the DHF, a deep friendship was formed between Therese Sams Colquhoun (Ting) and Teresa Bridges, cousins who had never met before this event. As a direct result of this friendship, 89-year-old Ting can now for the first time look upon the young faces of her great-grandparents and the sweet face of her grandmother as a baby.



Ting Colquhoun and Teresa Bridges, cousins who met at the 2018 Sams Family Reunion

If only these pictures could talk...

- They would tell of a young dental student who, in 1847, volunteered to undergo a dental procedure using the experimental anesthetic known as chloroform, making him what is believed to be the first person in the world to do so.
- They would tell of a beautiful and beloved wife and daughter who at this point in their lives had only known privilege and prosperity.
- They would tell of being prized and cherished possessions that could not be left behind during the years of raging war.
- They would tell of their continued value as they were passed from generation to generation over the next 150 years.
- They would tell of being placed in the hands of the cousin who lives in the same city as one of this country's most talented photo restoration artists.
- They would tell of how they were skillfully restored and copied, allowing us all to gaze upon the very faces of those who long ago called this island and its plantation home.

The reproductions are on display in the History and Learning Center and are now part of its permanent collection.

The four (original and restored) photos of Robert, Sarah Jane and Sarah Phoebe Sams:

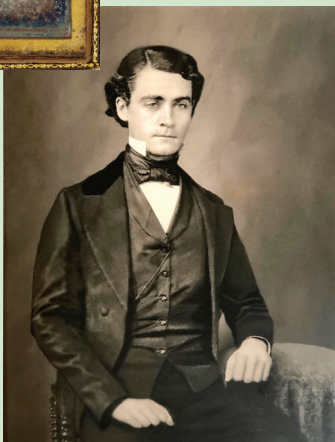


Original daguerreotype (circa 1849) of Dr. Robert Randolph Sams (1827-1910)



Original ambrotype (circa 1854) of Robert's wife Sarah Jane Sams (1835-1920) and their daughter Sarah Phoebe (1858-1901)

Restored from the daguerreotype (above), the photo of Robert Sams.



Restored from the ambrotype (above), the photo of Sarah Jane and Sarah Phoebe Sams.



* The **AMBROTYPE** or amphitype is a positive photograph on glass made by a variant of the wet plate collodion process. Like a print on paper, it is viewed by reflected light. Like the **DAGUERRETYPE**, which it replaced, and like the prints produced by a Polaroid camera, each is a unique original that could only be duplicated by using a camera to copy it. The daguerreotype was invented in 1839 and the ambrotype was introduced in the 1850s.



November 17: VAC Holiday Boutique
Visit the DHF table and pick up a package of our holiday cards and a copy of *Dataw: No Ordinary Place*. (See below for more details.)

December 9: Dataw Luminary Night

January 30: Annual Fireside Chat
Our featured speaker will be Dennis Cannady, authority on Robert Smalls and Scale Model Craftsman

March 23: DHF 22nd Oyster Roast
DETAILS TO COME!

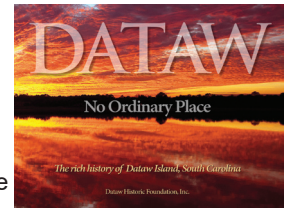
VAC Holiday Boutique

Visit the DHF table at the VAC Holiday Boutique in the Community Center on Sunday, November 17, from 3-5 PM. This year's theme is "The Spirit of Datha."

Holiday cards (sold in packs of ten for \$10), featuring a photo of the Sams Plantation Ruins in winter, will be on sale at the DHF table.



Also available will be the beautiful coffee table book, *Dataw: No Ordinary Place* (\$40). This book, which contains the history and many



photographs of our beautiful island home, is a perfect holiday gift. We have a limited number of copies left and when they are all sold, we are not going to do a reprint. So get your copy today while it is still available!

All proceeds from sales for both the cards and the book will support the History and Learning Center.

TABBY TATTLER
Fall 2019

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

Dataw Historic Foundation
PO Box 819, Beaufort, SC 29901

CO-EDITORS

Kathy Kelenski
(843-838-3335; kathy.kelenski@gmail.com)

Kathy McShane
(843-612-2144; kmcshane2233@gmail.com)

LAYOUT/DESIGN

Cindy Schafer
(919-475-0153; cindyschafer21@gmail.com)



2019 Dataaw Historic Foundation Members



MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- **Lifetime Members** (Those whose lifetime contribution to the DHF is \$5,000 or more and have shown a long-term commitment to DHF.)
- **Honorary Members** (Limited to those with an ancestral connection to Dataaw Island. Includes Sams family descendants and family descendants of other prior owners of Dataaw Island.)
- **Friends of DHF** (Those who have made a significant contribution to or have a special connection to DHF.)
- **Benefactors** (\$250) ■ **Patrons** (\$100) ■ **Supporters** (\$60) ■ **Members** (\$40)

LIFETIME MEMBERS

William & Rhetta Lowndes III
Jerry & Linda Hubbard

HONORARY MEMBERS

Virginia & Charles Aimar
Susan Sams Allen
Teresa Bridges
Therese Colquhoun
Cilla Dukas
Barbara & Rennie Gauvin
Janie & Stephen Sams Hayes
Julia Sams Holleman
Jeanne & John Rogers
Margot & Lawrence Rowland***
John Bonum Sams, Jr.
Monroe S. Sams Jr.****
Sara Parker Sams
William M. Sams
Dr. David R. Winters

FRIENDS OF DHF

Herbert & Beryl Arnold
Sonny & Mary Bishop
Colin & Jane Brooker
Lois Cochran
Marjorie Dehls
Martha Hamilton
Ian Hill
James & Brenda Norris
Eric & Carol Poplin
Rick & Mary Wrightman

- **** Also Benefactors
- *** Also Patrons
- ** Also Supporters
- * Also Members

BENEFACTORS

Jack Brown
Paolo & Arleen Cassutti
Terry & Margot Eld
Jane Griffith
James & Anne Kistler
John & Anita Mahoney
John & Kathleen McShane
John & Cecily Megrue
John & Judy Myers
Joseph & Diane Roney
Monroe S. Sams Jr.
Bob & Kathy Shields
Gerald Smith

PATRONS

Dennis & Sylvia Bailey
Rod & Jacquie Bartlett
Steven & Sally Bieritz
Kenneth & Charlotte Blamble
David & Rose Bowman
Steve & Connie Brotzman
Robert & Mary Louise Bussa
Paula Campbell
Michael & Barbara Carakostas
Bill & Carol Carpenter
F & R Clark
Ron & Susan Converse
Ann Craigmile
John & Mary Ferguson
James & Jennifer Flanagan
Charles & Winn Goodwin
Sterling Hall & Rosa Lee Vitez Hall

Charles Hammel
Doug & Sue Ellen Hardman
Roger & Valerie Hatcher
Jan Jones
Joan Jordan
Paul & Susan Jorgensen
John & Martha Keet
Gene & Kathy Kelenski
Robert & Sue Kinder
James & Catherine Kinsella
Marilyn Koerber
William & Jayne Krebs
Rachel Kube
Thomas & Billie Maier
Jim & Janis Mathis
Raymond & Mary Jo McPhail
Joanne Moses
Ken & Mary Therese O'Brien
Bill & Josie Paddock
John & Bonnita Payne
Peter & Anna Pearks
Marilyn Peck
William & Lynn Peterson
Peter & Jane Post
Chuck & Judy Raynor
Dan & Trisha Richter
Marcia Rohrbach
Lawrence & Margot Rowland
Woody Rutter
Bill & Beth Samuels
David & Julie Schmidt
Steve & Anne Schmitt
Wesley & Dawn Schuster
Andrew & Cathryn Sebor
John & Kristin Seifried
Lionel & Judy Sevigny
Greg & Marj Shymyske
Magdelaine Smith

James & Lois Smithson
Jack & Debby Sovern
Greg & Becky Sprecher
Herb & Kathy Stackhouse
Pat & Cathy Stanton
John & Mary Stefan
Rolland & Ainslie Stermland
Mack & Amy Stone
Priscilla Trask
George & Patricia Troendle
Jeanne Wasson
Tom & Martha Watkins
Robin Weeman
John & Marianne Wells
Steve & Paula Wexler
Conard & Nancy White
John & Linda Wickwire

SUPPORTERS

Michael Allen & Jane Wooten
Bob & Barbara Anderson
Bruce & Carol Anderson
Don Andrew & Mary Kay Noren
Tom & Elizabeth Blair
Frank & Barbara Boyle
Pat & Pat Carberry
George & Sandra Cartledge
John & Josie Cashen
Jim & Susan Dickson
Scott & Ellen Drury
Harry Eblen & Anne Saravo
Clay & Sonia Fails
Steven & Lynn Faulkner
Joseph & Mary Ann Foutch
Norman & Julie George
Jan & Mem Goouza
David Grady
Alex & Lee Greene
Jonathan & Janet Gregory
Ronald & Jacqueline Guy
Paul & Nancy Hahn
Lewis Harden
Robert & Ellen Hartz
Dean Hewitt
Ted & Megg Hoffman
Usman & Kathleen Ismail
Donald & Sue Kemper
Mark Klosek & Ida Amaral
Walter & Anna Lee
Scott & Ashley Maentz
Margaret Marty
Donn & Candace Massey
Hal & Rebecca McCann
Beth McCormock
James & Karen McCue
Larry & Becky Messinger
Dick & Celeste Nalwsky

Bob & Dorothy North
Steve & Cynthia Peskoe
John & Susanne Peterson
William & Laura Riski
Mel & Karen Rogers
Jack & Sheri Scherger
Bob Steinmetz & Pat Ashton
Allan & Nancy Tillapaugh
Bill & Linda Tomsik
Larry & Beverly Van Dillen
Lynne VanEtten
Marc Viguera
Bill & Bobbi Weber
Sue Weidner
Robert & Kathy Welborn
Peter & Lynn Baker Zamuka
John & Sue Zankowski

MEMBERS

Karen Ahern
Tracy & Veronica Anderson
Guy Apicella
& Virginia Hall-Apicella
Keith & JoAnn Aspray
Norm & Laura Baade
Janet Baker
John & Ann Ballantyne
George & Mariane Beck
Larry & Veronica Beidelman
Ed & Pam Berg
Charles & Judith Bergin
Jim & Gretchen Blickel
Pete & Tina Bongiovanni
Ralph & Laura Bricker
Richard & Cookie Brown
William & Gretchen Carroll
James & Mary Carter
Walter & Barbara Clarke
Stephen & Kim Cluff
Aubrey & Jeanne Cochran
John & Robin Colgan
Colin & Carolyn Collins
Ellen Corbett
Jane Covault
LeRoy & Carol Crocker
Ken & Chris Crooke
Vickie Cummings
Joan Dahl
John & Dotty Dail
Jim & Cece Danigelis
John & Dena Dardzinski
Christine Devine
Jerry & Barbara DeVisser
Barbara Dittmer
Erwin & Debra Doerschler
Robert Dooner
Ken & Marie Doyon

Harry & Anne Eblen
Georgie Erikson
Ann Fauver
Deon Federick
Mark & Barbara Fisher
Joyce Foley
Robbie Foote
Stewart & Vicki Fraser
Shayne & Scott Gelbard
Anne Gilbert
Richard & Mariann Golobic
John & Toni Grabowski
Dave Graybeal
& Claudia Peebles
Frank & Nancy Grimaldi
Geoffrey & Elizabeth Grout
Jim & Barbara Guille
Roberta Gunderson
Frank & Linda Hager
Norma Hammons
Grace Harrigan
Connie Haskell
Sandra Hatcher
Robert & Sally Haxby
Richard & Mary Heglin
Kenneth & Sherry Hirsch
Charles & Leslie Holbrook
Sandy & Cindy Holden
Arth Holzmacher
Duane & Cindy Hooper
Frederic & Christy Houle
David & Jackie Hubbard
Ronald & Peggy Hubright
Monte & Ruth Huebsch
John & Betty Huntley
Tom & Charlotte Hurley
Ronald Jacobs & Donna Klein
Paul & Joy Jacobs
Bill & Leslie Jacobson
Joe & Terri Jodoin
Marti & Andy Johnson
Joe & Jean Jones
Stan & Joan Karmilovich
Tim & Mary Gray Kelleher
Thomas & Susan Kelley
Jim & Ellen Kemp
Sharon Kendall
Paul & Cynthia Klug
Paul & Barbara Kyne
Donald & Terry LaMont
Larry & Sue Lance
Rick & Lisa Ledwith
Don & Dutchy Lewis
Art & Carol Looney
Larry & Becky Lougee
David & Patricia Lundgren
Charles & Rosemary Lurey

Tim & Lynn Maher
Paul & Sue Mannheim
Bob & Lee Martin
Peggy Mathis
Judy McAuley
W. Charles McCormack
& Jane Thurston
Michael & Donna McKeown
Phil & June Meeker
Ted & Pat Mitchell
Bob & Bev Newman
John & Nancy O'Connor
John & Holly O'Shea
Douglas & Denise Ogden
Thomas & Beth Oliver
Jack Freney
& Rosemary Patterson
Jan Perry
Mike & Joanna Petrie
James & Jane Pheffer
Daniel & Ruth Pierce
Bob & Micki Pogachnick
Robert & Barbara Priest
Evan & Rosemary Reese
Alan & Jennifer Rooter
Elisabeth Ruys
Robert & Nan Sadler
Thomas & Julia Sayre
Bill & Dot Schaphorst
Brooke Schuster
Chuck & Ingrid Schweitzer
Al & Sheila Sears
Francois & Barbara Seguin
Nigel & Pat Sewell
Jack & Marcia Shaughnessy
Greg & Jill Shorey
Tim & Pat Stolte
Joan Suda
Bill & Thompson
Chuck & Karen Tomb
Barry & Maddie Trevor
Kathleen Trice
Bob & Lisa Twardy
George Ulmer
& Sandy Hermann
Russ & Marcy Umbricht
Johnny Nielsen
& Patty VanSant
Robert & Mary Walmsley
Donald & Nancy Walnes
Roy & Cindy Walters
Mary Wasden
John & Michele Weaver
Charlotte Wheeler
Jim & Anne Williams
Dennis & Chris Wood
Richard & Elaine Wright

YOUR Dataaw Historic Foundation Membership is **IMPORTANT!**

Our history makes us unique among residential communities and our efforts to preserve and display that history are enriching, educational and important to our future. Your DHF membership assures the preservation of Dataaw's historic tabby structures, the plantation site, artifacts found and all related archives.

One hundred percent of our funding is dependent on membership. Our membership contributions are critical to continue our research, and maintain our Learning Center and our preservation.

We are grateful for those of you who have generously supported us in the past, and we hope you will continue to do so. Those of you new to Dataaw or unfamiliar with the work of the Foundation, please recognize the importance of your membership contribution.

Our 2020 Membership Drive will start in January. Please help support our efforts to preserve this beautiful island that we all love!

