

Did You Know?

Did you know that Berners Barnwell Sams (1787-1855) had fifteen children?

B.B. Sams' first eleven children were by his first wife, Elizabeth Hann Fripp (1795-1831) and the next four children were by his second wife, Martha Edwards (1799-1857). No wonder he built additions on both sides of the plantation house! He and both of his wives are buried in the Sams family cemetery near the plantation ruins on Dataw. William Washington Sams and Ariana Adeline Sams are also buried in the family cemetery.



Elizabeth Hann Fripp Sams | Berners Barwell Sams

Their children's names and date of birth are listed below. Look for something unusual in their names.

Berners Bainbridge	1814	James Julius	1826
Melvin Melius	1815	Robert Randolph	1827
William Washington	1817	Horace Hann	1829
Ariana Adeline	1818	Elizabeth Exima	1831
Donald Decatur	1820	Adelaide Arianna	1832
Elvelina Edings	1822	Barnwell Bonum	1835
Franklin Fripp	1824	Charles Clement	1837
		Sarah Stanyarne	1840

Did you notice that all the second names begin with the same letter as the first name?

With thanks to Joel Holden for his research and authorship

"Did You Know?" is a series of fascinating facts and short stories about our Island, presented by the Dataw Historic Foundation.