

# TABBY TATTLER

Dataaw Historic Foundation Newsletter

[www.DataawHistory.org](http://www.DataawHistory.org)

Spring 2016



## The DIH&LC Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Draws Enthusiastic Crowd at New Building

... ANN CRAIGMILE

DHF President Marilyn Peck proclaimed April 19, 2016, as a “happy day for history.” Indeed, it was a happy day for the DHF and for all Island residents.

Approximately 250 residents and guests attended the ceremony marking the opening of the newly completed History Center in the site of the Sams Plantation Ruins Complex.

Marilyn welcomed all guests including several descendants of the Sams’ family. As she recounted the journey leading up to this day, she noted all the DHF funding projects over the years and expressed appreciation for the support the Dataaw residents have shown for each endeavor. She gave special thanks to the many people involved in the planning and construction of the building: DIOA and DIC Board members, Management Staff, DHF past presidents and those DHF Board members who played key roles — Jack Brown, John Colgan Joel Holden and Peter Pearks.

Joel Holden, who worked tirelessly throughout the planning and construction of the building, gave special thanks to his committee. He especially thanked resident Bill Fox for doing the preliminary architectural planning, and Allen Patterson from Patterson Residential Building for construction of the building.

Jack Brown introduced Sarah Parker Sams, daughter of Arthur Raoul Sams, Jr. Arthur was a direct descendant of Dr. Berners Barnwell Sams. Jack read a plaque that will be displayed in the Center honoring Sarah’s father, who passed away in 2014. The family has made significant contributions to the Center.

Larry Rowland recapped some of his family’s history of the Island. He praised the legacy of the DHF and noted that the History Center will “engender the imagination of all people who come to visit.”

Marilyn then called upon Beaufort Sams’ family matriarchs, Jeanne Sams Aimar, Ting Sams Colquhoun, and Betty Sams, dedicated DHF supporters, to cut the ribbon. Before they took the scissors in hand, a cake was presented and “Happy Birthday” was sung to Jeanne who was celebrating her birthday.

Attendees were then invited to check out the new Center and its current exhibits, and enjoy a wine and cheese reception planned by Susan Jorgensen.



DHF President, Marilyn Peck (far right), and Joel Holden (far left) with assistance from Sams’ family matriarchs, Ting Sams Colquhoun, Jeanne Sams Aimar, and Betty Sams, cut the ribbon officially opening the Center.

(Photo taken by Alexandra Leung, Communications Director)



Sarah Parker Sams (standing with former DHF President, John Colgan) giving thanks for the plaque honoring her father. Sarah is the daughter of Arthur Raoul Sams, Jr., a direct descendant of Dr. Berners Barnwell Sams.



Jack Brown presenting plaque to Sarah Parker Sams. The plaque, which honors Sarah’s father, will hang in the Center.



(Front row) Jeanne Sams Aimar, Betty Sams, Ting Sams Colquhoun, as the crowd sang happy birthday to Jeanne.

### INSIDE . . .

- The President's Corner (page 2)
- Dairy/Ice House Report (page 2)
- New look of the Tattler (page 2)
- DHF a part of Luminary Night (page 2)
- Making a Difference on Dataaw Island: The Dataaw Island History and Learning Center (page 3)
- Best Oyster Roast Ever! (page 4)
- Learn More about Dataaw History (page 4)
- DHF 2016 Board (page 4)



## The President's Corner . . . MARILYN PECK

It is not only my pleasure to welcome you to the Spring 2016 issue of DHF's semi-annual newsletter, but it is also my honor to be the new President of DHF. There have been so many wonderful people doing this job in the past, and they are all part of the reason that DHF has been able to stay such a vibrant and thriving organization. This *Tattler* will bring you up to date on the results of several efforts since our last issue and on projects we have in the works for the rest of this year.

The most important and long-anticipated project has been the completion and opening of the Dataw Island History & Learning Center. We could not have done this project without the support of our membership and other contributors to our fund-raising drive, the sale of bricks, and the sale of our book *Dataw Island, No Ordinary Place*. I want to say a big thank you to all.

I especially thank those who have worked tirelessly to make the DIH&LC a reality. The Building Committee: Joel Holden, Peter Pearks, and Tim Maher; Bill Fox, the designer of the building; and the Fund-raising Committee: Jack Brown, Diane Roney, Cathy Crocker, Marianne

Beck, Bob Shields, Cindy Schafer, and Larry Scoville. We had the grand opening of the Center on April 19, and it was a huge success. We were very fortunate to still have members of the Sams' family, who continue to support our efforts, be able to attend. It couldn't be a more exciting time to have this building now open for all of our residents to be able to see the Island's history all under one roof.

We have had wonderful turn outs at recent DHF events. Thanks to Kathy Kelenski and Kathy McShane, the March Oyster Roast was a sell-out. We broke last year's record on raffle sales, and all the proceeds from the event went to the DIH&LC.

The biggest preservation project for 2016-17 will be the repairs to the Dairy/Cold Room building. This is a unique building as it is the only intact structure like it in the United States. Recently, an inspection of the structure revealed significant cracking and deformation of the tabby roof. John Huntley and his committee are now in the process of working with a construction company to make the necessary repairs.

DHF had a table in the Dataw Island *Carnival of Clubs*, where we were able to showcase what DHF is all about. We will

be part of Camp Dataw this summer, where we will be running a program in our new History & Learning center for 50 children.

We are bringing back our exciting e-mail series *Did You Know?* which is full of interesting historical facts about Dataw.

DHF membership is off to a wonderful start in 2016. We have 310 members as of April 1.

In closing, I want to thank all of our DHF members for their financial and volunteer support. If you are not yet a member, I encourage you to join us in our ongoing effort to preserve Dataw's historic structures and showcase its artifacts. Dataw Island remains a unique and beautiful place to live, and I feel very lucky to be a part of it.

### NEW LOOK TO THE TATTLER

Those of you who have read the *Tabby Tattler* in the past will note that we are now printing in color. Thanks to a local printing company, we were able to print in color for less than we would have spent for black and white. We're trying to save money and look good!

## Dairy/Ice House Area Now Fenced . . . PETER PEARKS

If you have walked through the Sams' Plantation Ruins recently, you may have noticed the fence in front of the Dairy Ice House. The fence, erected with help from Bill Weber, provides a temporary enclosure for the Ice House while we have it reinforced against possible collapse. Thanks to Bill for his energy and help, to the Golf Maintenance Department for the loan of a post hole digger, and to Christi Henry for allowing us to scavenge a few of the old posts and rails.

## DHF a part of Luminary Night . . . PETER PEARKS

On December 7, 2015, the ruins were aglow as part of Dataw's *Light Up The Night*. The Dataw Garden Club organized the magical evening with the DHF and the DIYC participating. Donna McKeown chaired the event, which featured Katie McAllister singing carols with the Sams Plantation ruins lit up in the background.



## TABBY TATTLER Spring 2016

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

Executive Editor: Ann Craigmile  
(843-838-3713, anncraigmile@gmail.com)

Layout/Design: Cindy Schafer  
(843-838-7517, cindyschafer21@gmail.com)

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

## Making a Difference on Dataw Island: The Dataw Island History and Learning Center. . . ANN CRAIGMILE

**Thank you Dataw — it's finally here!**

The dream of DHF has become a reality. We now have a place to display and store artifacts, documents, and photos; to make archives available to residents and visitors; and to have a meeting place for docent tours.

The need for a place to showcase and store materials started when Alcoa began developing Dataw in 1983. During the 90s, the *Ruins Committee* was established by residents to preserve the site of the Sams Plantation ruins and artifacts unearthed by Alcoa. Some artifacts were displayed in the Sales Center, some in the Clubhouse. Everything else was stored in members' homes. Some artifacts still remain in the History & Archives Building in Columbia.

In the early 2000s, we had limited storage space in the Clubhouse. These early archives contained Alcoa documents, newspaper clippings, maps, and early marketing materials. In 2009, these items were moved to the Welcome Center. When that space was no longer available, everything was moved to a building in the maintenance area.

Through the years, photos, maps, books, and documents have been added to the archives and significant personal items have been donated by the Sams and Rowland families. Since 1983, several site archeological studies have taken place; the Sams' family tree was compiled; the cemetery was studied; Jerry Hubbard built a scale model of the plantation house; a professionally done History Wall was created; artifacts have been categorized and organized in a database; videos produced; a website established; informative newsletters and brochures printed; and a coffee table book published. In addition, a great deal of independent research documenting the history of Dataw Island as far back as 12,000 BC has been added to the archives.

The specific need for a central location was presented to the DHF Board by Jack Brown in 2002. The path to the present building has involved extensive fund-raising, and hard work. In 2007, the DIC/DIOA jointly published a Dataw Island Strategic Direction document that stated: "*Find/create an appropriate permanent location for all historic exhibits and archives.*"

2009 was a turning point. In a flyer to sell

bricks for the Dataw Heritage Walk, DHF went public with plans to raise funds for a permanent facility to house its historic exhibits and archives. A separate "Museum Fund" was created in the DHF account books. (*To date, 258 bricks have been sold raising over \$38,000 for the Center.*) That fall DHF member Jane Griffith coordinated the creation and installation of *A Portrait of Dataw Island History Wall* display in the Welcome Center. It was installed with the provision that one day it may be moved.

On March 4, 2011, the Tabby Ruins of the Sams Plantation Complex achieved national recognition when they were officially placed on the National Register of Historic Places. This gave significant impetus to the project. By this time any surplus monies not spent on ruins preservation or history education were directed to the Center account. In 2012, DHF met with the DIOA/DIC Joint Long-Range Planning Committee to begin investigating and defining framework for a Dataw Island History & Learning Center.

In March, 2013, a *DHF Building Committee* was put together, with Joel Holden, Peter Pearks, Tim Maher and Bill Fox. Bill put together a "Scope of Work" and submitted early designs. His work was invaluable to the project. In June 2013, Jack Brown contacted Ian Hill, Chair of the Beaufort County Historic Preservation Review Board, and set in motion the process which led to securing an accurate survey map of the Sams Plantation Tabby Complex and the conducting of a "shovel test" of the target building area.

In January, 2014, 94% of DIOA members voted in favor of erecting the Center on DIOA leased land. The lease agreement was signed in October, 2014, allowing DHF to lease the land to construct a building. Rent on the 99-year lease was set at \$1 per year.

In late 2014, the DHF published *Dataw, No Ordinary Place*. Profits were designated to what was now renamed the *Dataw Island History & Learning Center Fund*.

Early in 2015, Jack Brown and his committee of Diane Roney, Marilyn Peck, Marianne Beck, Cindy Schafer, Cathy Crocker, Bob Shields and Larry Scoville conducted a successful building fund-raising campaign. With over \$101,000 raised in this campaign,



the total funds needed for construction of the Center were met. In August 2015, Allen Patterson Residential LLC was named as the construction firm. Joel Holden oversaw the construction process. Construction was completed in March, 2016.

Joel Holden and Peter Pearks moved everything into the new building, assisted by Jack Aldridge from Maintenance. The History Wall in the Welcome Center was disassembled and moved to the new building, with the help of John Weaber and his truck. Thanks to Joel's and Peter's tireless efforts, the new building was ready for the April 19 "Ribbon Cutting" ceremony.

The DHF will continue to faithfully perform its mission as caretaker of Dataw's historic artifacts, tabby plantation structures, and researcher/archivist of its written history, but now all will be accessible to residents and guests. You have made it possible.



(Above) Peter and Joel moving furniture into the new building.

(Below) Peter setting up the scale model of the plantation house.



### Best Oyster Roast Ever

Co-Chairs Kathy Kelenski and Kathy McShane received many well-earned, positive comments on this year's oyster roast and raffle, which netted over \$9,000 for the Foundation. All the proceeds went to support the new building.

Temperatures on March 21 were mild, the oysters were clean and tasty, and the beautiful array of desserts in the Cannery were delicious. The familiar music played by Dick Nalwasky's band, "Sometimes Later," provided the perfect ambiance to the evening. The meal, catered by Keith Potts and Jeff Schott, also included grilled chicken and chicken gumbo along with several side dishes. Seventeen lucky raffle prize winners received special gifts donated by Dataw artists and local Beaufort businesses. The grand prize, a beautiful painting by Kathy Crowther, was won by Gretchen and Bruce Wager.

Special thanks go to dessert co-chairs, Diane Roney and Kathy Stanton, and to our six handsome bartenders! (See picture below.)



Bartenders John McShane, John Colgan, Peter Pearks, Jack Brown, John Huntley and Paul Jorgensen.



Co-Chairs Kathy McShane and Kathy Kelenski.



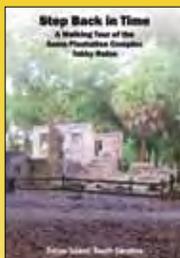
President Marilyn Peck greets special guests Jeanne Aimar and her nephew, Reeve Sams, son of Betty Sams.

### Learn more about Dataw History

Love what you saw when you toured our new building? Want to learn more? We have lots of material to help you!

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

This booklet allows you to do a self-guided tour of the Sams Plantation Ruins.



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.

The **DHF Brochure** gives the history of Dataw Island, starting with the legendary giant King Datha, whom the Spanish learned of from Francisco Chicora, an Indian captured in 1521.

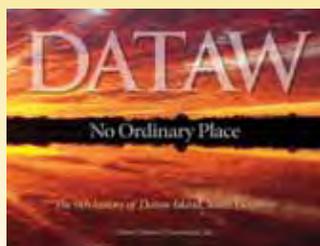
**Both the Walking Tour booklet and the brochure are free. Copies are available at the History and Learning Center.**

Want more information about the history of our beautiful island? Our book, *Dataw, No Ordinary Place*, is a beautifully illustrated "coffee table" book about the rich history of Dataw Island. We have a limited number of copies available. The price is \$40 with all proceeds from sales going towards supporting the Dataw Island History and Learning Center.

To purchase a copy, of *Dataw, No Ordinary Place*, contact: Cindy Schafer (843-838-7517; cindyschafer21@gmail.com) Marilyn Peck (843-838-2200; jayjaypeck@aol.com) Diane Roney at (843-838-4972; jvrjersey@gmail.com)



(Left) Visitors to the new Center study the History Wall. Formerly in the Visitor's Center, it is now a part of our new building.



### DHF 2016

#### Officers, Board Committee Chairmen and Directors

##### Officers

- President: Marlyn Peck
- Vice President /Treasurer: Ron Jacobs
- Recording Secretary: MT O'Brien
- Corresponding Secretary: Joe Roney

##### Board Committees Chairmen

- Fund Raising Co-Chair: Kathy Kelenski
- Fund Raising Co-Chair: Kathy McShane
- Grounds Chair: Peter Pearks
- Ruins Preservation Chair: John Huntley
- Historic Chair: Joel Holden
- Long-Range Planning Chair: Jack Brown
- Membership Co-Chair: Susan Converse
- Membership Co-Chair: Dawn Schuster
- Public Relations Co-Chair: Susan Jorgensen
- Public Relations Co-Chair: Cindy Schafer
- Tabby Tattler Editor: Ann Craigmile
- Tabby Tattler, Layout/Design: Cindy Schafer
- Volunteer/Docent Training: Diane Roney

##### Directors At-Large

- Financial: Ken Hirsch
- LR Plan./Ruins Preservation: John Colgan
- LR Planning/Fund-Raising: Marianne Beck

##### Other

- Technical Consultant: Larry Rowland
- DIOA Representative: Perry Gessell

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