



TABBY TATTLER

Dataaw Historic Foundation Newsletter

www.dataawhistory.org

Winter 2011

From the President . . . JACK BROWN



These are very exciting times for DHF, and it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Winter 2011 edition of DHF's semi-annual newsletter. This special newsletter is packed with interesting articles on the extensive preservation efforts and projects DHF has worked on this year. Many thanks go to three people who put together the issue: Ann Craigmile (Executive Editor), John Colgan (Managing Editor) and Cindy Schafer (Layout and Design).

When I wrote my last Tattler column in the spring, I had a sense that 2011 was going to be a good year for DHF and was excited about some things I hoped we could achieve by year's end. This was shortly after DHF had received a major Preservation Award from Historic Beaufort Foundation for its preservation and stewardship of the Sams plantation ruins.

Well, thanks to some terrific momentum and a busy and successful last several months, I am delighted to report that 2011 will be DHF's most successful year in its 16-year history.

Briefly, I would like to highlight a few of the key efforts this year:

- **Membership/Event Support** — DHF finished the year with 359 members, close to 50% of Dataaw homes and its largest organization. Both fund-raising events were sellouts, and all net proceeds will go toward future preservation programs.
- **National Recognition/Celebration** — representing the culmination of a major initiative, the Island recently celebrated inclusion of its "Sams Plantation Complex Tabby Ruins" on the prestigious list of historic properties by the National Register of Historic Places (*see John Colgan's article on page 2*).
- **Preservation Projects** — continuing its mission as steward/caretaker of Dataaw history, DHF completed a major project this summer at the Dairy/Cold Room and Blade House; did additional preservation/conservation work at Sams and Cotton Dike cemeteries and L. R. Sams plantation site at the Morgan River; and recently completed a historical recording of 25 years of stewardship at the B. B. Sams plantation ruins (*see John Huntley's article on page 3*).
- **Other Special Events/Efforts** — (1) **New DHF Website:** launched this spring, a convenient and easy way for residents and friends to learn more about Dataaw history (*see article on page 4*); (2) **Sams Family Tribute:** DHF special photo event in October (*see article on page 4*); (3) **Camp Dataaw:** major DHF involvement in "history hunt" for 40 Dataaw youngsters (*see article on page 5*); (4) **Tours:** at least four in 2011, including Sams family members, Hilton Head history group, retired FBI agents and a visiting sailing group; and (5) **Heritage Walk:** milestone reached this year, 220 bricks sold/placed in special walk near ruins (*see article on page 7*).

It has truly been an exciting and gratifying year — and I thank all DHF members for their financial and volunteer support. Now it

President's Message continued on page 3

DHF note cards, Mystic Ruins, by Bonnie McDonald make great holiday and hostess gifts. They can be purchased at the Golf Pro Shop or at the alcove desk in the Fitness Center.

There are 10 notecards in each pack and the cost is \$10 per pack.

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Save the date!
DHF'S
15TH ANNUAL
OYSTER ROAST
at Sams' Plantation Ruins
Monday, March 19, 2012

National Honors for Sams Plantation Complex Tabby Ruins

.. JOHN COLGAN

On Friday, November 18, 2011, Dr. Eric Emerson, Director of the South Carolina State Department of History and Archives presented Dataaw management with the Certificate and Plaque officially listing “The Sams Plantation Complex Tabby Ruins” on the National Register of Historic Places. This honor was conferred before a record-breaking “Fireside Chat” audience of over 150 residents and distinguished guests in the Carolina Room of the Dataaw Island Club.

The listing represents the culmination of over 28 years of preservation work on Dataaw; from the first efforts undertaken by Alcoa South Carolina, Inc. through the work continued by the Dataaw Historic Foundation and the resident-volunteers of Dataaw Island.

Witnessing this historic event were nine Sams Family descendants, including Charles Aimar, Charles Aimar Jr., Jeanne Sams Aimar, and Reeve Sams Jr. Other dignitaries included Ian Hill, Beaufort County Historic Preservation Planner, Beaufort Mayor Billy Keyserling, Pete Palmer, Julie Good, and Maxine Lutz, representing Historic Beaufort Foundation, Dr. Eric and Carol Poplin, Colin and Jane (Bruce) Brooker, and Rick and Mary Wightman.

Pat Bell, DIOA President, described receiving this national honor as a truly “WOW” moment for all the residents of Dataaw Island. She thanked DHF and all those who so generously volunteered their time and financial support over the years to make this moment possible.

Ted Bartlett, Dataaw General Manager added: “This designation is the result of many years of hard work. The historical aspects of Dataaw Island are significant and only because of the extraordinary efforts of the Dataaw Historic Foundation can we insure their preservation.”

DHF President, Jack Brown called upon Beaufort historian Dr. Larry Rowland, whom he described as “Dataaw’s most famous resident”, to introduce Dr. Emerson.

After the presentation, Dr. Emerson gave his office’s assessment of this year’s activities surrounding the Sesquicentennial Commemoration of the Civil War. He related some amusing observations on the perception of the historical term “Secession” in South Carolina.

The National Register of Historic Places is a U.S. Department of the Interior program, begun in 1980, and administered by the National Park Service. This program seeks to preserve our national heritage by recognizing both public and private efforts to set aside and care for sites, buildings, and districts throughout the country which have played a significant role in our development as a nation and as a people. There are about 80,000 such designations in the United States, including the Washington Monument, Independence Hall, and the City of Charleston.



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



The record-breaking “Fireside Chat” audience enjoying Dr. Emerson’s presentation.

Dr. Eric Emerson, was an inspiring speaker.



Jack Brown, DHF President



(Left) Ted Bartlett, Dataaw General Manager, and Pat Bell, DIOA President, accepting the plaque listing Dataaw on the National Register of Historic Places.

Stewardship, Conservation & Preservation of the BB Sams Plantation Site . . . A Report by Colin Brooker

. . . JOHN HUNTLEY, Chair, Ruins Preservation Committee

In conjunction with the BB Sams Plantation site being listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Dataw Historic Foundation (DHF) undertook a very challenging project: a historical recording of efforts undertaken for the preservation, conservation, and stewardship of the BB Sams Plantation site from 1983 through 2011. This project covers the efforts undertaken by Alcoa South Carolina, Inc., subsequently the Ruins Committee of the Dataw Homeowners Association, and finally the DHF. It involved original research and collection of historical data and materials from the inception and the compilation of a report that consolidated this information into one resource.

It may sound easy enough. However, despite the best efforts in maintaining and archiving the necessary records, it would still be a formidable task. Fortunately, we had Mr. Colin Brooker, an architectural preservationist, who had been an integral part of this effort since its inception in 1983. The DHF commissioned Mr. Brooker to perform this task, and he began the work in early January 2010.

Mr. Brooker's recently completed report takes us from the beginning in 1983 when crews of archeologists and architects, working with basic hand tools, cleared the "jungle" to reveal the tabby ruins of the BB Sams Plantation. It was described as similar to the discovery/preservation of the Mayan Ruins in the jungles of Mexico! The historical narrative goes forward to include the most recent project to save the last intact gabled tabby roof structure in the United States at the Daily/Cold Room and Blade House. It even goes beyond the scope of the title to include recent surveys of the Lewis Reeves Sams Plantation site on the Morgan River. Also included are numerous exhibits and illustrations of the projects and progress made. Brooker Architectural Design Consultants was involved throughout this period. We are, therefore, fortunate to also have the benefit of the various field sketches and drawings from their files.

This comprehensive and invaluable report is currently being reproduced and will soon be available in the archives of DHF and the DHF website.



Colin Brooker

Welcome New and Returning DHF Members

Since our Spring publication, DHF has added 25 members. Thanks to the following:

BENEFACTORS

Paulo & Arleen Cassutti
Patrons
Skip & Judy Adams (Upgraded)
Ted & Joan Barber
Bob & Eileen Blovad
John & Martha Borcharding
Phillip Freeman, Jr.

SUPPORTERS

Joel & Rita Ingegnio
Walter & Ann Lee
John & Michelle Weaber

MEMBERS

George & Marianne Beck
Ed & Pam Berg
Nils & Joan Dahl
Jim & Cece Danigelis
Phillip & Betty Freer
Bob & Judy Gantz
Jim & Bette Goettle
James & Harriet Hawkins
Walker & Mary Louise Henry
Tom & Gilda Molzow
Roy & Midge Moore III
Jan Perry
Frank & Patricia Rice
Norman & Doris Robertson
Ronald & JoAnn Schneider
John & Kathy Welborn

Membership Chairs, Patty Gesell and Lynn Maher, reported a final count of 359 members for the 2011 Membership Drive. This was one less than the 2010 total and below the goal of 380 members, but membership revenue was up because several members generously upgraded their membership category. The 2011 drive was considered a success given the tough economy and current real estate market. Thanks Patty and Lynn for a good job.

TABBY TATTLER

December 2011

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

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President's Message

(continued from page 1)

is on to 2012. DHF's overall goal will be to build on the success of recent years — with a growing membership and an energetic and talented group of DHF directors and volunteers.

In closing, I wanted you to know that we will making a few personnel changes: I will be retiring as President and moving to Chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee; Joel Holden will be taking over as President (Joel has been an important DHF Board member for the past five years); and Joel's two VPs will be Marilyn Peck and John Colgan. It should be a terrific group as DHF looks forward to a very successful 2012.

It is through your membership in the DHF that the Foundation is able to document and communicate the Island's history as well as preserve the Sams Plantation ruins for future generations to appreciate.

Work has begun on the 2012 Membership Drive. Look for your 2012 membership materials in your message boxes in late January/early February. It is important that you become a member in 2012.

Sams' Descendents Gather in the Ruins for Four-Generation Portrait

... MARILYN PECK

On October 23, 2011, 42 members of the Sams' family gathered in the ruins for a family portrait, conversation and updates on DHF activities. In accordance with its mission, the DHF arranged for this gathering of the Sams' descendents in order to obtain a pictorial history of the family for its archives. Afterwards individual families contracted for separate family photos with the ruins as an impressive backdrop. The photographer was professional Susan DeLoach from Port Royal.

Four living generations (direct descendents of the original BB Sams family) assembled ranging in age from 98 years (Arthur Sams) to one year. The family was excited to be here. They toured the ruins and cemetery and afterwards were honored at a cocktail reception in the Tabby Room.

The festivities closed with 98-year-old family patriarch, Arthur Sams, presenting a check for \$1,000 to the DHF to honor Jack Brown's contribution to the DHF these past several years. Joel Holden, incoming 2012 DHF president, presided over the day's activities. Vice President and Public Relations Chair, Marilyn Peck, arranged the events of the day. A note to Marilyn from Susan Sams Allen summed up the day:

Thank you so much for all the hard work that you put into having a Sams family portrait. The cocktail party was wonderful and gave our family time to visit and renew relationships. The DHF is an amazing group of people who we as a family will be forever grateful for the time, energy, and money that you put into preserving our family history. The Sams family has been blessed by your Foundation. Thank you ever so much.



Surrounded by their children are (seated, left to right): Arthur Sams, Dr. Charles Aimar and Jeanne Sams Aimar and Ting Sams Colquhoun. Arthur, Jeanne and Ting are the direct descendents of BB Sams.

Dataw History Comes to the Bluff Villas

DHF recently participated in the creation of an in-room Dataw Island Hospitality Book as part of a new DIC Vacation Membership Program initiative. These Hospitality Books have been placed in Bluff Villa units selected to house "Experience Dataw" and Vacation Club Members when they visit Dataw.

In addition to information about the area (restaurants, houses of worship, retail shopping, etc.), Silvia Laide, DIC Membership Director, wanted to add the flavor and mystique of this wonderful Island to round out the reading experience. She turned to DHF for help. Joel Holden, with some assistance from Cindy Schafer, happily obliged! Visitors can now read about the exciting 10,000 year history of Dataw Island, learn about the mission and accomplishments of Dataw Historic Foundation, and visit four historic sites on the Island by following the Island map which is included.

DHF is pleased to share the Island's long and fascinating history as part of a coordinated marketing effort with the DIC and the DIOA.

Dataw Website Launched www.datawhistory.org

Thanks to Joel Holden's computer skills, DHF has its own dedicated website. Residents can now access the extensive Dataw Historic Foundation archives. Many artifacts are displayed and documents dating back hundreds of years are now available for viewing and reading.

If you have not already done so, go to the Dataw Historic Foundation website at www.datawhistory.org. Give yourself plenty of time because there is a wealth of interesting information and useful links "at your fingertips."

One addition to the site is the complete publication of *Memoirs of Datha* by James Julius Sams, son of B. B. Sams. In his memoirs, he relates stories about growing up on Dataw. The recommended read is a lengthy file, but you can copy and save it to your computer. This document is located under Collections/Document Archives/Dataw Island History. Also, it is now possible to search the entire Dataw Historic Collection with single commands. Try it.

DHF Participates in Camp Dataw . . . MARILYN PECK

Over 40 grandchildren visiting Dataw the week of August 13 enjoyed the second year of Camp Dataw, a fun-filled educational and recreational event.

Kevin Ennis, Fitness Center Director, arranged a busy schedule of activities, which included many of the fun things we experience daily here at Dataw — art, golf, swimming, fishing, tennis and the history of the Island.

The Dataw Historical Foundation was asked to provide an afternoon program for the campers that would be educational and entertaining. In spite of the 103-degree heat, 39 children enjoyed:

- Learning about the DHF, the history of the Island and the story of the ruins
- Seeing the historic display and model in the Visitor's Center
- Touring the Sams' plantation ruins
- Exploring a simulated archeological dig site
- Joining in a history hunt
- Participating in arts and crafts activities
- Eating special, original cookies baked by Lynn Maher

Heat and all, campers and helpers were pleased with the outcome of the afternoon's activities, which had been organized by Marilyn Peck. Special thanks go to Lynn Maher and the DHF member volunteers who were teachers, guides and assistants as the children went from activity to activity. At the end of the day, the volunteers appreciated the many heart-felt "thank you's" expressed by the campers.



The kids were too adorable to be able to limit our photos . . . a great time was had by all, campers and presenters!
Thank you to Brooke Schuster for taking all these wonderful photos!



Cotton Dike Course Gets New Historic Signage

... JOHN COLGAN

Golfers rolling up to the 5th Tee on the Cotton Dike Golf Course are being treated to a short history lesson in the form of a sign describing how the course got its name.

Thanks to Ann Craigmile, *Tattler* Editor, for the graphic aerial photograph and to Peter Pearks, DHF Grounds Chairman, for not only crafting and painting the frame and post but for erecting the sign as well. It reads:

This Dataw Island golf course, designed by Tom Fazio, is named after the earthen dikes or dams constructed in the western marshes between 1850 and 1860. The intent was to increase the acreage available for the valuable Sea Island cotton crop and these dikes served to prevent the intrusion of sea water into fields during periods of high tide. Unfortunately the soil conditions were not favorable and the area was converted into duck ponds to attract migratory fowl.

Two more signs are planned for the golf courses this coming year. One will be a replacement sign denoting the location of the Lewis Reeves Sams' home on, what is now, Morgan River #14. This home was believed to have been destroyed in the hurricane of 1893. The other sign will be erected behind the Cotton Dike #9 green at the ruins of the overseer's house.

These signs serve as a constant reminder that we are fortunate enough to live in a community with a rich and colorful history. We are grateful to the DIC and the DIOA Boards for also recognizing this and permitting us to place these "history moments" around the Island for all to enjoy.



(Photos above and below) Peter Pearks, DHF Grounds Chairman, crafted, painted and erected the new sign.



(Photo left) The beautiful new Cotton Dike sign on the fifth hole, ready for everyone to enjoy and understand the history of how Cotton Dike got its name.

2011 Fish Fry — A Sellout Once Again!

When full-time residents reconnect with those who have been away for the summer, it is an enjoyable time for all. Such was the case at the annual Fish Fry held on Friday, October 14. The event was sold out with 128 persons attending this major DHF fund-raiser at the Gazebo.

After all their detailed and careful planning, chairs Paula Campbell and Marcia Rohrbaugh were rewarded with good weather; a festive setup for welcoming, drinking, serving and eating; and a fantastic dessert table.

Paula and Marcia thank the many DHF member volunteers who baked desserts, set up and decorated, greeted and distributed name tags, tended bar, served food and cleaned up. Special thanks go to Diane Roney, who organized the beautiful dessert table.



Fish Fry Co-Chair Paula Campbell goes over details with DHF treasurer Doug Campbell.



Fish Fry Co-Chair Marcia Rohrbaugh shares a hug with DHF Secretary Barbara Titus

Dataw Heritage Walk . . . PETER PEARKS

Give yourself the gift of a brick this holiday!

If you have not walked through the arbor and followed the serpentine brick path towards the Sams' plantation ruins, plan to visit with your family during the upcoming holidays. The path winds through the antebellum garden and contains the names of friends and neighbors, past and present, who have left a permanent mark on Dataw Island's history.

The walk, constructed in 2009 by resident John Rotelli, was endorsed by the DIOA and is funded and maintained by the DHF. It provides an area for residents and employees to commemorate their time on Dataw. Bricks are engraved with your name and the date you first came to the Island. Most residents have purchased their own brick; some have been bought in memory of past residents; and some have been collectively purchased for an admired Dataw friend or employee.

To date 220 bricks have been purchased. Each brick purchased replaces an unmarked brick on the walk. Revenue generated from the sale of bricks is going into a special DHF fund dedicated to some day providing a permanent location for the extensive Dataw archives and artifacts collected, categorized and stored through the years.

To purchase a brick, send in the form below. This holiday season would be a good time to add your mark to Dataw's rich history.



The Dataw Heritage Walk . . . a living legacy to those who have made Dataw the very special place it is today. Check out the beautiful Heritage Walk near the Cannery and the Sams Plantation Ruins.

Cut on the dotted line and send in to address listed below to order your brick!



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.*

B. B. Sams and Kate Gleason are part of Dataw's rich past legacy.

You can become part of Dataw's living legacy with your name on the walk.

Forms can also be downloaded from the **DHF website at datawhistory.org**. Forms are also available at the Cannery and the reception area of the Club. Or contact Joel Holden (838-0089), Terry Lurtz (838-7262) or Peter Pearks (838-2506).

Brick Cost: \$150. Please use one order form per brick.

Fill in squares with inscription letters using one letter or space per square.

<input type="text"/>														
<input type="text"/>														
<input type="text"/>														

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:

JOHN & JANE
WILLIAMS
2001

THE WILLIAMS
FAMILY
2001

JOHN WILLIAMS
FAMILY
2001

JOHN
WILLIAMS
2001

Ordered by: Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-Mail: _____

Return the Order Form and Check Payable to 'Dataw Historic Foundation' to: Terry Lurtz, 219 Dataw Drive, Dataw Island or mail to: Dataw Historic Foundation, PO Box 819, Beaufort, SC 29901

DHF Board Notes

The creation of the DHF Website and the Production of an Island History DVD. Vice President Joel Holden's computer skills have greatly enhanced resident access to the DHF archives through the new DHF website, and now he is in the process of producing a comprehensive DVD on the Island's history.

If you have not done so, go to the website at www.datawhistory.org. Give yourself plenty of time, because there is a wealth of interesting information and useful links "at your fingertips." One addition to the site is the complete publication of *Memoirs of Datha* by James Julius Sams, son of B. B. Sams. In his memoirs, he relates stories about growing up on Dataw. It is a lengthy file, but you can copy and save to your computer. This document is located under Collections/Document Archives/Dataw Island History. It is also possible to search the entire Dataw Historic Collection with single commands.

Joel reports that several additions and enhancements to the DVD, which he originally produced as a history recap for Dataw's 25th anniversary celebration, are in progress. He is also adding voiceovers in some segments of the presentation. Joel hopes the DVD will be available for distribution around the beginning of April, 2012.

Tours of the Ruins. At the request of the Beaufort Yacht and Sailing Club, on October 14, John Colgen and Joel Holden conducted a tour for 22 wives of the McScow Sailing Group. As a token of thanks, the BYC sent a donation to the DHF. Two tours are already on the books for 2012.

Ruins Chair John Huntley reported that several copies and several CDs will be made of the Colin Brooker report that details all of the preservation work done on the Sams' Plantation and cemetery ruins starting when Alcoa purchased the property and ending with recent work done on the Diary/Blade house.

Public Relations Co-Chairs Marilyn Peck and Cindy Schafer reported that the brochure that is distributed to residents, newcomers, interested buyers and tour takers is being revised. Since it is used as a marketing and sales tool, this version will contain no material that may become dated.

Grounds Co-Chairs Terry Lurtz and Peter Pearks updated the board on signage. In addition to the relocation of the sign on CD #5, a new sign is being considered at MR #14.

Some projects proposed for 2012 include the formation of a DHF website committee to keep the site relevant and current, and to name a person to take charge of tours of the ruins. One responsibility of this person would be to create a handout with a good map to give to persons taking a walking tour.

Joel is working closely with Jack as he gets ready to assume the responsibilities of DHF president in January.

DHF 2011 Officers, Board Committee Chairmen and Directors

OFFICERS

President: Jack Brown
Vice President: Marilyn Peck
Vice President: Joel Holden
Treasurer: Doug Campbell
Recording Secretary: Barbara Titus
Corresponding Secretary: Cece Megrue

BOARD COMMITTEES CHAIRMEN

Fund-raising Co-Chair: Paula Campbell
Fund-raising Co-Chair: Marcia Rohrbaugh
Grounds Co-Chair: Terry Lurtz
Grounds Co-Chair: Peter Pearks
Historic Chair: Jane Griffith
Long-Range Planning Chair: Joel Holden
Membership Co-Chair: Patty Gesell
Membership Co-Chair: Lynn Maher
Public Relations Co-Chair: Marilyn Peck
Public Relations Co-Chair: Cindy Schafer
Ruins Preservation Chair: J.D. Huntley

DIRECTORS AT-LARGE

Long-Range Plan., Historic: Anne Williams
Long-Range Planning, PR: John Colgan
Long-Range Planning, PR¹: Elizabeth Blair

OTHER

Technical Consultant: Larry Rowland
DIOA Representative: Pat Bell

¹ Special Leave of Absence

Upcoming DHF Projects for 2012

The new year is shaping up to be an exciting and productive one! A number of projects are already underway and these are some great opportunities for volunteers to get involved.

- History Tours of the Plantation Ruins – This past year, DHF conducted 6 guided tours and we already have bookings for 3 more in 2012. This made us aware of the need to formalize this process and set up a docent bureau to handle what is seen as a rising demand for educational tours in the months and years ahead.
- Public Relations Chairs, Marilyn Peck and Cindy Schafer report that they are working on a revision of the DHF membership brochure and the creation of a separate booklet containing Dataw history facts and figures.
- With our new DHF website up and running, we are interested in forming a website committee to keep the site updated.
- The production of an Island History DVD is underway and will be available for distribution around April, 2012.
- The Heritage Walk Committee has sold over 220 bricks but there is room for more! If you have not yet bought a brick for placement in the Heritage Walk, fill out and send in the order form on page 7 of this newsletter. These bricks allow you to leave a lasting impression on the Island and the proceeds from the sale of the bricks goes into a separate fund to build a permanent home for the artifacts and exhibits and a history learning center for residents and their guests.