

TABBY TATTLE

Dataaw Historic Foundation Newsletter

www.DataawHistory.org

Winter 2015–2016

DI History & Learning Center Progress... JOHN COLGAN

The rough plumbing has been put in for the building and the concrete slab has been poured. Framing is started. We are finally on our way!

The History & Learning Center has been plagued by a series of delays that would test the patience of Job! The back and fourth between our Committee, the County Zoning Department, the architect, the contractor and the County Building Codes Department played out all summer long like a bad soap opera. As many of you can attest, building is a challenge in Beaufort County, to put it mildly.

But I am pleased to say that this play seems to have a happy ending. Thanks to the talent, perseverance and patience of Joel Holden, Bill Fox, Tim Maher and Peter Pearks, we were finally granted a building permit in late October.

Allen Patterson, our contractor, is hard at work now and expects to finish within 90 days, providing the weather cooperates. After 20 years of dreaming and planning, DHF will have a permanent home for the display and study of its extensive collection of artifacts and archives dating back 12,000 years!



The slab is poured and framing has started. We are on our way!

Lowcountry Boil Big Success! ... SUSAN JORGENSEN & KATHY KELENSKI

The weather was perfect (*unlike our Oyster Roast in March!*), the bugs were non-existent, the decorated Gazebo was packed, the food was delicious, the beverages were plentiful, and the band was a bonus. Our October DHF Lowcountry Boil, held to show appreciation for our members, was a huge success.

Attended by 114 enthusiastic Foundation supporters, the evening began at 5:00 PM. Jimmy Fitts catered an outstanding buffet of lowcountry boil (sausage, potatoes, and shrimp), grilled chicken, coleslaw, green beans and baked beans followed by lemon and pecan squares. Guests returned often to the “all-you-can-eat” spread. Dick Nalwasky’s, “*Sometimes Later*” Band kept us entertained throughout the evening.

Many people helped make the night enjoyable; we thank them all. *We especially thank the membership of the Dataaw Historic Foundation for their extraordinary generosity this year.*

Susan Jorgensen, co-chair of the event with Kathy Kelenski, with DHF President John Colgan, surrounded by DHF members enjoying dinner!



Kathy Kelenski, co-chair of the event



SAVE THE DATE!
DHF's 16th Annual
OYSTER ROAST
Monday, March 21, 2016

YOU ROCK It is because of members like YOU that the DHF 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 2016 Membership Drive. **We hope you all become a DHF member in 2016!**



Dataaw, No Ordinary Place

Sales of this beautifully illustrated book about the rich history of Dataaw Island have been strong. Copies are available, but may not be for long, so get yours today.

Contact Cindy Schafer 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 Dataaw Island History and Learning Center.

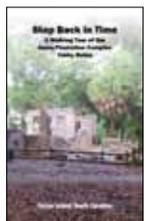
Step Back in Time A Walking Tour of the Sams Plantation Complex Tabby Ruins

This booklet (*free to all residents – it is our gift to you!*) 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.

Copies are available at the Cannery.



Docent training classes are available for anyone who would be interested in helping to staff the History & Learning Center and tour visitors around the Ruins. If you are interested, contact Diane Roney at 843-838-4972.



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The President's Corner ... JOHN COLGAN

At the beginning of every year, DHF sets goals for itself. At the end of every year, we report to you just how well (or poorly) we accomplish those goals. After all, you deserve to know if your contributions are being well spent! More importantly, you are entitled to know if your faith in the management of the Dataw Historic Foundation is well placed.

As you read the various articles and view the pictures, I hope you will be pleased with what has been done and will join with me in thanking those neighbors and friends who have volunteered so much of their talent and time to preserving Dataw Island's historical buildings, artifacts, archives and its amazing 12,000-year-old legacy!

Membership in DHF has always been the lifeblood of this organization. Nearly half of Dataw make a conscious decision every year that "history matters" and that we can learn much from the experiences of those who have gone before us. We continue to strive for 100% participation of all residents in DHF. Our 2016 membership appeal will be coming up soon and we are planning to make a special effort to encourage our newer residents and Club members to join in this good work along with our long-time supporters.

"Dataw, No Ordinary Place", our most ambitious publishing effort to date, has sold nearly 600 copies! This beautifully illustrated, full color, "coffee table" book is the most complete history of Dataw Island ever compiled. We are flattered that the Dataw Marketing Committee, led by Laura McCarthy, Dataw Island's new Marketing Director, have chosen to purchase 100 copies of this book to use in the "Experience Dataw" program. As they thumb through the pages of *"Dataw, No Ordinary Place"*, sales prospects will be constantly reminded of their visit and of the fact that there are few places on earth as lovely and as interesting as Dataw Island.

After a long, hot summer of frustrating "red tape" and what seemed to us to be arbitrary delays, the Beaufort Building Codes Department finally issued DHF building permits for the construction of the Dataw Island History & Learning Center! Allen Patterson Construction Company has completed the rough plumbing work and will be pouring the concrete foundation this week! We expect the building to be largely finished by the end of the year with a ribbon cutting ceremony planned for early February.

As discussed in last Spring's *"Tabby Tattler"* the pitched roof of the Dairy/Cold Room has developed a crack running diagonally across it. We detected this problem last year and set in motion a plan to investigate the cause and find a solution that would prevent further deterioration. Toward that end, John Huntley, DHF's Ruins Preservation Chair, consulted with DHF's noted tabby expert, Colin Brooker, and with Craig Bennett, a nationally recognized Preservation Engineer. Over this summer, the Dairy/Cold Room roof has been under close scrutiny. DHF met with Bennett Preservation Engineering on November 9 and learned what steps need to be taken to save this property. The Dairy/Cold Room represents the only known pitched tabby roof in existence anywhere in the country and, most likely, in the world! Be assured that a solution will be found and this treasure will continue to amaze historians for years to come!

This is my last President's letter. I have decided to retire as President of the Dataw Historic Foundation. It has been a privilege and an honor to serve with so many truly dedicated and wonderful people. I have loved every minute of it! The role of President will be assumed by Marilyn Peck. Marilyn is very well-suited to this job. She has been a Vice President of DHF for the past decade and a strong right arm for me over the past four years. Please give her all your support. I will still be involved with DHF as a docent, a researcher, and, occasionally, I will write articles for Dateline and Tabby Tattler.

Thank you for your advice and encouragement. I hope to see you at the History & Learning Center. Please stop by for a visit!

Barbara Titus Retires as DHF Recording Secretary

... JOHN COLGAN

Barbara Titus is retiring as DHF's Recording Secretary after 20 years of service. That's right—for the past two decades—the entire life span of DHF! How can we adequately thank her?



Barbara has faithfully recorded the minutes of every meeting this organization has had. Always one of the first board members to arrive at our monthly meetings, Barbara has probably the best attendance record of any board member. Such dedication and commitment is very rare these days, even on Dataw Island!

Barbara's involvement with historic preservation predates the formation of the Dataw Historic Foundation. Barbara was one of the early members of the "Ruins Committee", the resident group that stepped up to petition Alcoa to be mindful of the Island's historical treasures and urge them to take measures to save Dataw's precious heritage! Barbara is the last of these early pioneers on the Board.

The term "heroism" is perhaps overworked these days, but, in Barbara's case, I believe it is an apt and pertinent description of her. There will always be a place for Barbara Titus at DHF — and in our hearts. Thank you very much for your service, Barbara!

TABBY TATTLER

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

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Tours of the Ruins . . . JOEL HOLDEN

Our tours continue to be very popular. I gave three more presentations of the “12,000 years of Dataw Island History” in the Cannery, followed by a tour of the Sams Plantation Complex Tabby Ruins. Assisting as tour docents were Jack Brown, John Colgan, Joe Roney, and Ron Jacobs.



Dataw tours of the ruins. Below, members of the OLLI tour in April.

The OLLI tour in April included the largest OLLI group we have had, with 43 attendees enthusiastically enjoying learning about the history of Dataw. They were fascinated by the plantation ruins and agreed that it is a local treasure of Beaufort County.

An October tour was setup for the Sun City Luncheon Ladies. After lunch in the Tabby Room, I presented the DI history PowerPoint show. Afterwards, I gave the group a walking tour through the ruins. The Sun City Luncheon Ladies graciously presented a donation to DHF.

John Colgan organized an unusual and special tour of the ruins. In August, members of the Beaufort Rotary Club and their spouses toured the ruins and brought as their guests 9 visiting Rotarians from Milan, Italy, who were here as part of the Rotary Friendship Exchange program. The group leader, Nancy Gilley, was not sure just how well the visitors understood English. As happens so often on Dataw, a call went out for an Italian speaker, and DHF member Paolo Cassutti volunteered to act as interpreter. As luck would have it, Paolo is originally from the Milan area himself. Joe Roney, Lenda Jablonski, and Elizabeth Grout assisted John Colgan and treated the group to a tour around the Ruins complex. The Italians were interested to learn that the Sams Plantation house is a Palladian design. Andrea Palladio was a renowned 17th Century Italian architect from Northern Italy whose designs have been much copied the world over. For example, “Monticello”, Thomas Jefferson’s Virginia home, is a Palladian design.

Cold Room/Dairy Structural Issues . . . JOHN HUNTLEY

The “pitched tabby” roof makes the Cold Room/Dairy on the Sams Plantation unique. It is the only intact one known today in the United States and thus one of the most important buildings in the plantation complex.

During an inspection earlier this year, cracking and deformation of the tabby roof and walls was noted. At the time the Verdier House in downtown Beaufort was suffering structural problems with its tabby structure and had employed the services of Bennett Preservation Engineering, a premier firm in Charleston noted for its preservation work. Through the services of Colin Brooker, our preservationist expert, we were able to have Craig Bennett and his associates make a preliminary investigation and study of the Cold Room/Dairy.

After careful consideration by the DHF, it was agreed to go forward with Bennett Preservation to provide an architectural investigation including a schematic design with cost estimates to be presented to the DHF and hire Colin Brooker as the general contractor to oversee the potential restructuring of the tabby roof.

As of this writing, Bennett has completed the on-site investigation, which includes visual observations, general photographic documentation, and field measurements, in particular looking at the connections of the walls to the roof. Laser scanning has also been completed.



Colin Brooker, John Huntley, John Colgan, Craig Bennett, Lyles McBratney and Taylor Frost. The team from Bennett Preservation Engineering was inspecting the Cold Room/Dairy.

A schematic design for the recommended repairs, along with the total project costs for moving forward, including the construction costs and any other additional design fees, has been presented to the DHF Board by Craig Bennett. These findings, conclusions, and recommendations will be used for any remedial construction necessary to preserve the Cold Room/Dairy structure.



The “pitched tabby” roof on this Cold Room/Dairy is the only known one intact in the United States.

New Oak a Progeny of the Sams Cemetery Oak Once a small acorn . . . 30 years later, an oak tree!

. . . ANN CRAIGMILE WITH THANKS TO CHRISTI HENRY & BRIAN HOLLINGSWORTH

In 1985, William Waskiewicz, an arborist hired by Alcoa, took acorns from the Cemetery Oak and planted them in pots, which were nurtured for five years in a hoop greenhouse located in the Maintenance area. By 1990, the acorns had grown to five feet and were transplanted to various Island locations.

Fast forward to 2015 . . . Brian Hollingsworth, Dataw Superintendent of Golf, knew that the diseased fairway tree on Morgan River #9 was becoming a hazard. Since the tree was a key element in the play of the hole, it needed to be replaced. Fortunately Christi Henry, Director of Landscape Maintenance, knew the locations of the oaks which had been transplanted around the island 25 years ago, and it was decided to replace the diseased tree with one of them. Maintenance crews root-pruned and fertilized the selected tree for a year in preparation for the transplant.

The diseased tree came down on October 5. Four days later, the largest tree spade that could be located in the area was brought in from HHI. In a matter of two hours the tree was removed from the Cannery area and replanted in the fairway. The tree will be carefully nurtured with 15 gallons of water a day for the next 2–3 months.



(Photo above) Ted Bartlett (Dataw General Manager) and Brian Hollingsworth (Director of Golf Maintenance) assist in transplanting the off-spring of the Sams Cemetery oak tree from the Cannery area to its new home on the Morgan River #9 fairway.



(Photo left) The newly replanted tree. Grown from a tiny acorn to a beautiful tree in just 30 years!

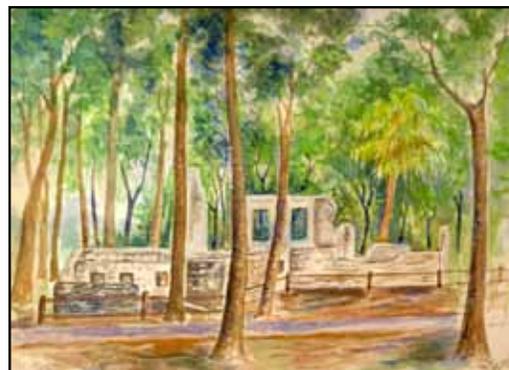
Nan Bopp's Legacy to the Dataw Historic Foundation

. . . JOEL HOLDEN

Nan's endowment to the history of Dataw Island is displayed every time someone walks through the Sams Plantation ruins or the Sams Family Cemetery. At least nine of the sketches imprinted on the history signs were created by Nan. These images of ladies working in the dairy and of the Sams cemetery and chapel are examples of her creativity.



Nan also presented DHF with her color painting of the plantations ruins. The painting will be placed on display in the Dataw Island History & Learning Center now under construction.



Nan Bopp's beautiful painting of the plantation ruins, to be on display in the new DHF History & Learning Center.

The Dataw Historic Foundation will always appreciate the talented contributions of Nan Bopp. She will be missed.

DHF 2015
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If you are interested in working with the Dataw Historic Foundation contact any of the DHF Board members.