

Tabby Tattler

Spring 2009

Dataw Historic Foundation Newsletter

Featuring

Wish Granted and Prayers Answered. . .

One Sams Descendent's Story



From the President. . .

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the spring 2009 issue of DHF's semi-annual newsletter. This issue will bring you up to date on the projects we are working on this year. Plus, it includes a report on our dynamic membership as of early May.

Save the date!
DHF Fall Fishfry
Monday, October 12

When I last did a column for our newsletter in January, I indicated that 2009 was going to be a very busy year for DHF as I announced plans to take on six significant projects. Busy certainly describes this year so far, and I think I can safely say that 2009 will probably end up being the most active and most successful year in DHF's 14-year history.

I am excited about our membership numbers and am delighted to report that in just four months, we have passed our 2009 goal with a current total of 366 members. This is up 14 members from last year's total and represents 45% of Dataw homes.

Funds raised from our membership campaign go toward the stewardship of Dataw's tabby plantation ruins, the major historic treasure of our island. Recently, we had a great example of the importance of these ruins when a large group of eighth grade students from the Lady's Island Middle School toured the ruins as part of a Garden Club Youth Committee event. Here is a gratifying thank you note from one of the young people in the group:

Thank you for the opportunity to see all of that history. It was fun.

Y'all need to keep on taking care of that place.

*It was **AWESOME**.*

Tyler

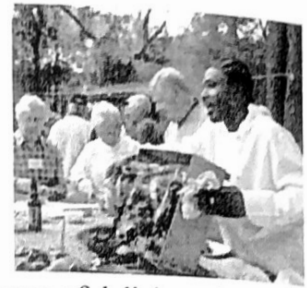


Thank you Tyler! And, once again, I thank all of our DHF members and hard-working volunteers for your support in our exciting adventure to preserve Dataw Island's unique plantation history.

Jack Brown



2009 Oyster Roast Enjoyed by all!



Plenty of fresh, steamed oysters, a great selection of food and drink, good music, an array of delicious desserts and tables adorned with beautiful yellow daffodils were featured at the 10th **Annual Oyster Roast** held on March 9. The unique plantation ruins setting and the beautiful weather (*along with a few noseeums*) provided a festive atmosphere for the 226 DHF members and guests who attended the popular sold-out event.

Chairs Patty Gesell and Lynn Maher kept the popular grilled marinated chicken that was added to the menu last year. It was a perfect complement to the gumbo and many side dishes in the buffet line. Joan Berra, assisted by Robin Colgan, coordinated the volunteers who made the fantastic desserts, which were served with coffee in the cannery.

DHF President Jack Brown welcomed attendees and introduced Terry Lurtz, who "unveiled" the plans for the Dataw Heritage Walk, which will lead into the plantation ruins

Highlighting the evening was the drawing for six extraordinary raffle prizes. Special thanks go to Paula Campbell for putting together this profitable portion of the event. **Lucky raffle winners were:**

- Watercolor "Allium" painted and donated by Kathy Crowther--Barb Kyne*
- Coastal motif pillows crafted and donated by Ann Holden--Bernie Creegan*
- Lowcountry chair donated by Ed Jerue, The Lowcountry Store--Ellen Like*
- Tabby planter made and donated by Rick Wightman--Katie Campbell*
- Hand-carved teak placemats donated by The Oyster Cay Collection--Elizabeth Tenore*



Music was provided by the popular combo, "The Breeze." Caterer Michael Reeves provided, prepared and served the oysters, the chicken and the gumbo.

The Oyster Roast is a **major** fundraiser for the **DHF**, and this year over \$4,500 was raised to help fund projects. Thanks to all who donated raffle items; all who assisted in setting up, preparing and serving food; all who served beverages; all who bought raffle tickets and all who attended this special event.



Lynn & Patty, Chairs



Robin & Joan



Jack



Terry, Peter & John
The Heritage Walk Project



Terry



Wish Granted and Prayers Answered. . .

by Cathy Crocker



Cathy with French & Alma O'Shields



French & Alma with their four children and their spouses

My original assignment was to write a feature article about the reconstruction of the Sarah Fripp Sams crypt, which was first scheduled to take place in April. After two more postponements, the restoration experts moved the project to the fall thus leaving a void for the Spring Tattler. . . Then. . .

In mid May I received a phone call from Gwen Myers, owner of Bateaux, Beaufort Clothing and the Lewis Reeve Sams house in Beaufort, asking if I would be available to give a tour of the ruins to Sams descendent, Dr. French O'Shields and his family over the Memorial Day weekend. While doing some research on the Sams house on the Internet, Gwen came across a 2006 article in the *Gaffney Ledger* written by French describing a "fantasy island" visit to Beaufort and finding the home of his ancestor, Lewis Reeve Sams at 601 Bay Street. In the article French stated that his wish was to go back to Beaufort--even though he knew he could never stay in the house. After reading his article Gwen called French and told him that she would like *to make his wish come true*. Since she and her family were going to be away Memorial Day weekend, she invited French and his family to stay in her home, the Lewis Reeve Sams house on Bay Street!

On Friday, French called me and said that he, his wife and four children along with their spouses were in the house, and they would like to come to Dataw at 9:30 on Saturday. Doug Campbell came with a printout of French's family genealogy going back seven generations to William Sams and showing the direct line of descendency from Lewis Reeve Sams and Sarah Fripp Sams. Ann Craigmile also joined us with her camera. So began a most interesting morning with a most interesting family. In addition to the ruins and cemetery, we visited the exhibits on the second floor of the Clubhouse, the Morgan River remains of Lewis Reeve Sams house and the plantation house model in the Welcome Center. All ten family members were eager to see and learn all that they could about their ancestors.

Continued on page 7



Cathy describing house features.



Exploring the Sams Cemetery.



Doug gathering more genealogy info.

2009 DHF Members

Membership Categories

- **Lifetime Members.** Those whose lifetime contribution to the DHF is \$2,500 or more.
- **Honorary Members.** Limited to those with an ancestral connection to Dataw Island. This includes Sams family descendents and family descendents of other prior owners of Dataw Island.
- **Friends of DHF.** Those who have made a significant contribution to or have a special connection to DHF.
- **Benefactors (\$250)** • **Patrons (\$100)** • **Supporters (\$50)** • **Members (\$30)**

Lifetime Members

Arthur R. & Martha Sams, Jr.



Arthur is direct paternal great, great grandson of B. B. Sams

Honorary Members

Dr. Charles & Jeanne (Sams) Aimar
Charles & Virginia Aimar**
Tom & Susan Sams Allen**
Therese Colquhoun
Marvin & Cilla Dukes
William & Rhetta Lowndes III*
John & Jeanne Rogers***
Dr. Larry & Margot Rowland**
Sara Parker Sams*
T. Reeve & Betty Sams***

Friends of DHF

Dr. Herb & Beryl Arnold
Sonny & Mary Bishop
Colin & Jane (Bruce) Brooker
Lois Cochrane**
Marj Dehls
John & Martha Hamilton
Jerry & Linda Hubbard
James & Brenda Norris**
Dr. Eric & Carol Poplin
Rick & Mary Wightman****

- * also Benefactors
- ** also Patrons
- *** also Supporters
- **** also Members

Benefactors

Tom & Elizabeth Blair
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John & Anita Mahoney
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Bob & Kathy Shields

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Douglas & Katie Campbell
Larry & Cathy Cohen
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Dean & Mimi Cullison
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Joyce Foley
Harold & Phillis Freeman
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Daniel & Hazel Henry
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Terry & Beth Lurtz
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Jonathan & Marilyn Peck
Kenneth & Susan Pepper
Norman & Janet Phelps
George & Gail Roberts
Cinda Roudebush
J. Wood Rutter
Peter & Sherry Ruys
Anne Saravo
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Gerald Smith
Dr. Reginald & Ellie Smith
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Jan & Judy Turner
Keith & Karen Waldrop
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Bill & Carol Carpenter
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Rob & Mary Lou Dalziel
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Dr. Warren & Connie Grover
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Dean & Alice Hewitt
G. William Hill
Chipper & Peggy Hoff
Ronald & Donna Klein Jacobs
Herbert & Marge Jarvis
Ron & Elaine Johnson
Gwyn & Joan Jordan
Warren & Babs Kinsman
James & Marilyn Koerber
Mike & Louise Koetters
Kenneth & Peggy Lantelme
Timothy & Lynn Maher

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Gabriel & Wendy Nagy
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Tim & Nancy O'Connor
Thomas & Beth Oliver
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Joseph & Diane Roney
Charles & Collette Russell
Elisabeth Ruys
Robert & Barbara Sanderson
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Alan & Yvonne Schuster
Larry & Lynn Scoville
Kelson & Susan Slayman
James & Lois Smithson
Robert & Claire Spengler
Rolland & Catherine Stemland
William & Charlene Stocker
Sally Timms
Bill & Linda Tomsik
Bruce & Gretchen Wager
Jeanne Wasson
Taylor & Robin Weeman
Jim & Anne Williams
Kenneth & Bonnie Wright
David & Beverly Yoder

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George & Marianne Beck
Jim & Deborah Beck
Peter & Susan Beekman
Larry & Veronica Beidelman
Michael & Pat Bell
Arthur & Joanne Bent

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Joseph & Sandy Bergwall
Larry & May Bernard
Glenn & Susan Blackburn
James & Gretchen Blickle
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Sandy Bohlen
William & Nancy Bonneville
William & Nanette Bopp
Jack John & Martha Borcherding
John & Vivian Boyle
Ralph & Laura Bricker
Victor & Nancy Brinkman
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Richard & Martha Browne
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Calvin & Paula Campbell
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Bob & Mary Carter
James Cavanaugh
Roy & Joan Clelland
Aubrey & Jeanne Cochrane
John & Robin Colgan
Dr. Harold & Juanita Collings
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Edward & Rosemarie Conway
David Cook
Ellen Corbett
Maureen Corbin-Cooley
William & Marelizabath Cutler
Nils & Joan Dahl
Mary Beth Dale
James & Cece Danigelis
Coreen Deering
Barry & Pat deSatnick
John & Carol DeStefano
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Joseph Flanagan
James & Jeanne Foerstner
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George Jacobs
Andrew & Catherine Jacobs
Paul & Joy Jacobs
Joe & Jean Jones
Paul & Susan Jorgensen
Stanley & Joan Karmilovich
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Tim & Mary Gray Kelleher
John & Sharron Kendall
Karl & Jean Kendall
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Charles & Sue Kinnaird
James & Catherine Kinsella
Vince & Bett Klemm
Paul & Barbara Kyne
Louis & Linda Laiken

2009 DHF Members

Continued

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Vern & Jean Lamp
Larry & Sue Lance
Michael & Hedy Landes
Jim & Rita Laughnane
Rick & Louise Ledwith
Walter & Ann Lee
Don & Dutchy Lewis
Jim & Pat Lewis
Edward & Ellen Like
Rosemary Little
Linda Litton
Art & Carol Looney
Calvin & Ann Low
Phillip & Jayne Lundell
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George & Connie Mason
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Douglas & Audrey McBratney
Harrison & Rebecca McCann
Gordon & Robin McCarty
W. Charles & Jane McCormack
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Frank & Barbara McCoy
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Phillip & June Meeker
Marvin & Charlotte Melton
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Theodore & Pat Mitchell
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Jim & Carol Morrissey
Arthur Morrow
Alan & Debby Myers
Nancy Myers
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Douglas & Sheila Parker
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Gertrude Potters
Fran & Brucie Rice
Mac & Melanie Rogers
John & Rosemarie Rotelli
Mary Royalty
Robert & Nan Sadler
Harry & Lynda Scarfe
William & Dot Schaphorst
Robert & Lucille Schiller
Drew & Joan Schrader
Mark & Brooke Schuster
Wesley & Dawn Schuster
William & Joan Schwartz
Al & Sheila Sears
Noel & Alice Seeburg

Francois & Barbara Seguin
Vern & Liz Seto
Stuart & Sherry Shandalove
Laura Sherman
George & Sharon Shore
George & Babs Shwab III
Anthony & Joan Silvestri
Donald & Mag Smith
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Pat Todd
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Larry & Berverly Van Dillen
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Lesta Voght
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Larry & Sue Weidner
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Steve & Paula Wexler
Conard & Nancy White
Ellie White
Barbara Wietfeldt
Robert Wishart & Dale Martin
Al & Terry Wood
Dr. Lilyan Wright
James & Peggy Wynne
John & Sue Zankowski

KATE
GLEASON
1928

Construction Set to Begin on Dataw Heritage Walk

JOHN & JOAN
GOODYEAR
2002

The Dataw Heritage Walk is about to become a reality after many months of planning, consulting, announcements and receiving orders for Heritage Bricks. The blank bricks have been delivered to Dataw from Jenkins Brick Company in Bluffton, and a sufficient quantity has been delivered to Steedley Monument Works in Walterboro for engraving of names and dates.

John Rotelli, Dataw's own Master Mason, will start constructing the Heritage Walk on June 15. The entire brick walk will be constructed using both the engraved bricks and enough blank bricks to complete the walk. Over 120 engraved Heritage bricks will be included in this first phase of construction.

After the brick walk is constructed, tabby sections will be added to both ends of the walk. The tabby and bricks will create a transitional blend of the Heritage Walk with the plantation ruins. Tabby expert, Rick Wightman, will construct the tabby sections.

After the initial construction of the Walk, we will continue to receive orders for new heritage bricks. They will be engraved in batches and will replace blank bricks used in the initial construction of the walk.

If you missed the first phase of the Dataw Heritage Walk, don't despair! You can be in the next phase, marking your "footprint" in Dataw's history. Make your mark by placing your name and arrival date in the Heritage Walk or by commemorating someone you love or by honoring someone you feel has made a significant contribution to our community!

Order forms for bricks are still available in the Club House lobby or can be downloaded from dataw.org. For more information contact: Joel Holden 838-0089, Terry Lurtz 838-7262, Peter Pearks 838-2506 or Cece Megrue 838-0222

Wish Granted and Prayers Answered—continued from page 3

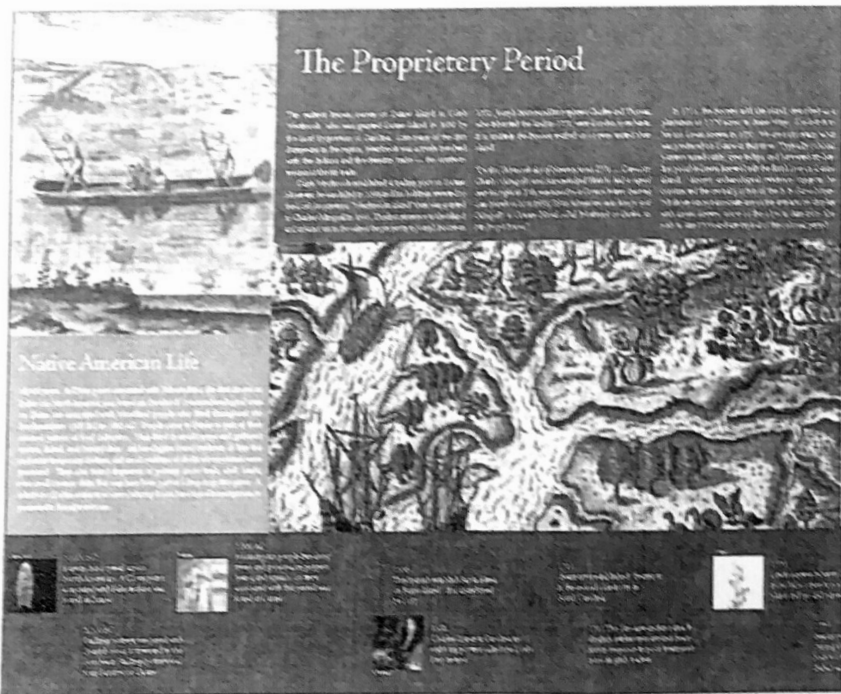
French, a Presbyterian minister, shared with us that he would be 80 in July and told another nice family story. His wife Alma had turned 80 last year, and to celebrate the milestone, he had rented a big house on Isle of Palms. The entire family--children, grand children and great grandchildren (28 of them) vacationed together. At the beginning of this year, his wife and oldest daughter had told him that they could not afford to rent a house; instead, they were going to pray about how to celebrate his birthday. The call from Gwen Myers was the *answer to their prayers!*

I spoke with French again over the weekend. He told me that while walking around Beaufort looking at other Sams' houses, they met Betty Sams on the street. She graciously invited them in, but they did not have time because of dinner reservations. French did get to meet her husband, Reeve Sams, and told him that he would have known he was a Sams because he looked just like some of the Sams men he knew when he was a youngster. He was also trying to connect with Jeanne (Sams) and Charles Aimar.

As a fun aftermath of the visit, Doug did some genealogical research on Alma's family (Lee) and sent an e-mail to French and Alma stating that Alma should not feel left out by all the material detailing the Sams' lineage as he had traced her family back to Charlemagne!



"Sneak Preview" of a Draft of the Welcome Center Historic Display



Historic Committee chair, Jane Griffith, stated "now is the time for us to get it all right" as she shared a portion of a draft of one of the three interpretive wall panels depicting the history of Dataw Island.

The committee is in the final stages of reviewing and editing the time line contents; all narrative, title and heading details; and picture and artifact selections along with panel layouts, backgrounds and colors. A huge task!

Carol Poplin, Project Manager at The History Workshop, is coordinating the planning, design, fabrication and installation of this joint DHF, DIOA and DIC project. Installation of the cabinet-style system should be completed by fall.

This is just a section of one panel. It shows the format for part of the time line and the Native American and Proprietary Periods. The entire display includes sections on the Sams Family, After the Civil War and The Twentieth Century.

DHF Board Updates

Barbara Clinkenbeard, cochair of the **Historical Committee**, and her husband David have moved to New Hampshire. Barbara helped lead the committee through several important projects including the historical wall. Her enthusiasm, dedication and attention to detail will be missed. DHF is grateful that Jane Griffith will continue as committee chair.

The DHF board welcomes Barbara Payne, new **Member-at-Large Director**. Barbara's background in communications, public relations and marketing will be greatly appreciated as the DHF strives to communicate effectively to the Island community.

Preservation Committee chair, Cathy Crocker, reports that archeologist/tabby expert, Colin Brooker and master tradesman/tabby expert, Rick Wightman, will be here on Monday, June 1, to begin tabby repair work on those areas of concern detected in the biannual structural examination of the ruins. The quote is \$3,000 to make the repairs.

Cathy and John Huntley visited the cemetery at the Brick Church on MLK Road. They discovered three crypts that were likely made by the same craftsman, R. D. White, who made the crypt of Sarah Fripp Sams--the one which will be reconstructed in the Sams cemetery.

Fund Raising Committee chair, Lynn Maher, has begun planning the DHF fall Fish Fry, which will be held on October 12. Mark your calendars.

Membership Committee chairs, Patty Gesell and Leslie Holbrook, are off to a great 2009 start reporting 366 members as of May 15.

DHF **Vice President and Public Relations** committee cochair, Marilyn Peck, has developed a spreadsheet to track DHF Communications and to coordinate publicity for all DHF projects and events.

Arborist Michael Murphy, owner of Preservation Tree, and a team of tree experts (using new research from a tree-ring expert) are seeking to document the oldest live oak trees in Beaufort County as a part of the Three Century Project commemorating the city's 300th anniversary. His ultimate goal is to find trees more than 300 years old that could have had civilization walking under them when the city of Beaufort was founded in 1711.

Joel Holden and Peter Pearks are making sure that Murphy receives all historical information regarding the tree in the Sams cemetery, which is thought to be 400 years old. All county historical trees will be documented using GPS mapping.

There's still time to become a 2009 member of the DHF.



Membership entitles you to attend DHF special functions; and, most importantly, it helps fund those projects which enable the rich Dataw Island history to become an important part of the total Dataw experience.

Your membership is tax deductible as we are a 501 C3 organization.

Name _____ Spouse _____ E-Mail _____

Address _____ Telephone _____

_____ \$250 (Benefactor) _____ \$100 (Patron) _____ \$50 (Supporter) _____ \$30 (Member)

Return this form to Leslie Holbrook, Membership Chair, 742 ICE or mail it to
Dataw Historic Foundation • P.O. Box 819 • Beaufort, SC 29901