



See GMH news inside!

Gaging the temper of the times:

From the papers 170 years ago when the house was a home.

Tax Returns – By a notice of the Receiver of Tax Returns for the County..., it will be seen that the time for making returns has been changed from the 1st of January to the 1st of April. Those interested should take notice and be governed accordingly.

Savannah Daily Georgian, April 4, 1854.

Strawberries! Strawberries!!



We were favored yesterday by Dr. H. E. Turner with a bowl of the largest strawberries we have ever seen. The sight was enough to make an epicure's mouth water. They were grown in Dr. Turner's garden, in the vicinity of this city.

Just think: while the Syracuse Journal of last Monday says, 'sleighing is tip-top in our street and the snow is still coming' – here, in Savannah, we are luxuriating in the finest of fruit, just taken from the vines! Sleighing may be, and we dare say is, a very fine thing in its place, yet we confess a decided preference for Dr. Turner's strawberries.

Savannah Daily Georgian, April 4, 1854.

Shaving. – It cannot but be a custom most insulting to shave off a beard, which, if kept in proper trim, as the birds and beasts instinctively keep their plumage and hair in good order, completes the perfection of man's face and the eternal distinction of the sexes, and whatever ladies pretend to the contrary, renders him far more attractive to women—at any rate, when custom has

had time to lessen their seeming repugnance; for their preference to men with good whiskers is certain. Shaving was forbidden by Moses, and therefore, according to the Jews and Christians, by God; it was a severe punishment among the Indians, and an irreparable insult to the Germans. The Osmanli swears by his beard, and spends half the day upon it. Shaving prevails in Europe because the Kings of France set the example to which formerly gave the ton to neighboring nations, and therefore was at length followed by all in this troublesome and unmanly fashion. Dr. Elliotson's Human Physiology.

Savannah Daily Georgian, April 6, 1854.

Camellias, &c – A large and elegant assortment of Camellias, amongst which are the most desirable varieties; also, Roses, Geraniums, Dwarf Oranges, and many other kinds, will be offered for sale this morning by W. W. Lincoln, Monument Square *Savannah Daily Georgian*, April 11, 1854.

Surgical Achievement. – When there is living dissection to be done, it is a comfort to find that it has been done according to the highest rules of art.



The "shoulder-joint operation" is, we are assured by the most competent medical authority, one of those seldest achieved in surgery. So, indeed, we should imagine, from the extent and depth of cutting which is involved. For it consists in removing the human shoulder by its entire joint. Until the other day, it had never been performed in the Southern States, and but six times in America.

This very difficult operation was, we learn, performed the other day in our city, by Dr. F. C. Ewing. The patient is rapidly recovering. *N.O. Crescent. Savannah Daily Georgian*, April 12, 1854.

Home.

Evenings at home, the enjoyment of the society of those we love, forms an important and profitable privilege for the industrious. Homes – its joys, happiness and bliss; its loved associations; its blessings! What cheers so well the merchant, when his daily task is complete, and when the shades of evening beckon him homeward to his cheering fireside, and the cheerful occupants, as the knowledge that such pleasures await him? And to the mechanic, who departs from home at day break, with cann in hand, inclosing the plain and frugal midday meal, what so consoling as the hope that his loved ones await anxiously his return to welcome him to their circle? Of such is home – sweetest home, 'neath whose portal angels stand to minister, and heaven lends its aid. – And Washington is not without its examples. Let those who doubt be satisfied by an early morning walk on the Avenue, where will be seen the mechanic and merchant in pursuit of their daily prize with the same hurried gait they will return at eve, laden with the rewards a beneficent Creator has allotted to them. No woe, no trouble, no ill can befall such a people, and good points to the goal whence blessings proceed to crown "a youth of labor with an age of ease."



Savannah Daily Georgian, April 18, 1854.

Desoto Discovering the Mississippi. – The celebrated painting Powell, designed for the remaining vacant panel of the Rotunda of our National Capital at Washington, and which has received universal commendation as possessing all the qualities not only as a splendid work of art, but as worthy the great event which it commemorates, will soon be presented to the inspection of our citizens. . . .
Savannah Daily Georgian, April 18, 1854.

Cotton is King. -- Charles Dickens, in a late number of his “Household words,” after enumerating the striking facts of Cotton says:
“Let any social or physical convulsion visit the United States, and England would feel the shock from Land’s End to John O’Groat’s. The lives of nearly two million of our countrymen are dependent upon the cotton crops of America; their destiny may be said, without any sort of hyperbole, to hang upon a thread.
“Should any dire calamity befall the land of cotton, a thousand of our merchant ships would rot idly in dock; ten thousand mills must stop their busy looms, and two million mouths would starve for lack of food to feed them.”
Savannah Daily Georgian, April 23, 1854.

Vandalism. – It will be seen by notice . . . that A. F. Forlay, the worthy Keeper of Laurel Grove Cemetery, offers a reward of ten dollars for proof to convict whoever stole two china flower vases from a grave within an enclosed lot of the Cemetery, at an early hour on Monday morning. Scarcely any punishment known to our laws is severe enough for whoever can be guilty of robbing the resting places of the departed of articles deposited there by the hand of affection. We trust the thief will be apprehended, and be made to feel the weight of such

punishment as shall not only deter him from future misdeeds, but prove a terror to all evil doers, especially within the sacred enclosures devoted to the dead.
Savannah Daily Georgian, April 26, 1854.

APRIL 2024

GREEN-MELDRIM HOUSE CALENDAR

Friday, April 5 – GMH closed until 2p.m. /Funeral use

Monday, April 8 at 10:30 a.m. – Discussion and Review of Combo Tour (GMH and St. John’s Church)

Wednesday, April 10 at 5 p.m. – The Keepers of Historic Green-Meldrim House

Thursday, April 11 – GMH Closed for Rental

Friday, April 19 and Saturday, April 20 – GMH/Closed for NOGS (Savannah Garden Clubs – NOGS Tour of Hidden Gardens) event

PRESCHEDULED TOUR GROUPS:

Tuesday, April 9 at 10 a.m. – 10p

Thursday, April 18 at 10 a.m. – 9p

FRONT DOOR ATTENDANTS/GREETERS!

Please remember the important steps in making your shift accounting work! We must keep account of guests who pay cash. See the step-by-step instructions in the top drawer of the admission.

- **Cash admissions please:** Don’t forget to ring in the cash tour admission each time a patron pays cash.

- **Surcharge for credit and debit cards:** Don’t forget to include the surcharge/process on credit card sales. FYI: The GMH absorbs the tax on cc sales within the admission fee, but asks patrons to pay the credit card surcharge.

- **YOUR ENVELOPE:** Your envelope, which you complete at the end of your shift, must include your name, date, shift, phone number and the amount of cash over what was in the bag at the beginning of your shift. If you record cash admission in the terminal, you will not need to include anything else in and on your envelope.

SOPHIE’S SHOP:

- **New in Sophie’s Shop:** The shop has just received a shipment of Byrd Cookies in our exclusive GMH/St. John’s tin. It sells for \$20. The



featured cookie is Key Lime Cooler!

- **Samples Promote Sales:** Shop workers and/or Upstairs docent, if you see the sample dishes are bare, go to Jamie’s office for more!

- **Docents:** Become familiar with shop inventory so you can promote items on tour. Taking a memento home from the GMH is a beautiful way for guests to remember their visit!

NOGS HELPERS:

We are delight to share the GMH with our Savannah Garden Clubs NOGS (North of Gaston) Hidden Gardens Tour friends in April. The sold out tour is on Friday, April 19 and Saturday, April 20. GMH folks would like to offer Sophie’s Shop to tour patrons. If you would like to help with this let Sherry Holtzclaw or Jamie Credle know.

DOCENT NEWS:

- **How wonderful to have new people involved with the GMH.** The new people on the calendar are John Hunt (docent/whole house), Judith Crawford (docent), Gummi Rothschild (door), Debra Caldwell (door), Michele Karnes (door). Classmates who have

already been on the calendar are Meg Clemm, Lisa Denmark, Rolanda Powell, Lori Stephens. The trainees who are finishing up shadowing are: Susan Brigman, Sherry Hines. Classmates who plan to get involved soon are Judy Braun and Phyllis Carlino. Hur- ray for all that you have learned!



- **Combo Tour:** In our quest to provide experiences for guests and to be open as much as we can, the GMH is putting together a combo house and church tour for Wednesday after- noons. The same docent will give the house and church tour which are planned for 1 and 2:30 p.m. Follow- ing each tour there will be refresh- ments on the GMH porch. Training for this endeavor will be on Monday, April 8 at 10:30 a.m. with planning throughout the month. The tour will pilot in May just in time for National Historic Preservation Month.

- **What a bird heard:** A little bird heard someone say the niches in the stairs were intended as places to ma- neuver large pieces of furniture. That is one of those famous “old house myths.” The niches are doing what they were intended to do – display art.

- **Overly long tours:** Criticism is hard. When guests write on social media that our tours are too long, it hurts. Every- one does not need to know everything.

Please ask yourself, “Am I giving overly long tours?” If you are, reeval- uate and keep in only the choice bits.

GMH tours should last 45 minutes! No more than 50 minutes from beginning to end - 25 on the first floor. 25 on the second floor.



Certainly, you know that people’s at- tention spans are getting shorter and shorter.

RULES OF THUMB FOR TOURING:

- Do not block the entrance to the house with your tour. Understand what the greeter/door keeper needs to do.
- Keep it moving.
- Don’t say everything you know.
- Read your audience and custom- ize for your tour presentation.
- Leave time for questions—after your tour!
- Smile and Sparkle.

WORTH MENTIONING:

- **Slides:** If you have slides (remember slides) or photographs of the interior rooms of the house from 1976 or before, Jennifer McCarthy, our collections worker, would like to see them. She can use them to date the furniture. Her desk is in Jamie’s office.

- **Dining Room Table:** The Dining Room table will be set periodically using modern plates, glasses and uten- sils. These are items owned by the house. The GMH’s thought is, “People like to see the table set.” Jan Vach has agreed to help with this.

- **Nametags:** Do you need a name- tag? Let Jamie know if you do not have one. Wear your nametag – so people will know who to say did a great job!

- **Diorama:** Interesting to note: John Deering, who is a Keeper of the Historic Green-Meldrim House, of- fered that Mills Lane wanted a diora- ma for each ward and to display them together on one level. Lane died in 2002 and ours is the only model made.

Note: The diorama is now operation- al (plugged in!). Be careful as you

walk around it.



DOCENT SPOTLIGHT

Gayle Crawford
Hometown: Savannah
How long have you been involved with

the GMH? Six years.

In what capacity? Tour guide.

What do you like best about the GMH? It has always been a house, now a parish house.

What do you do for fun outside the GMH? Guide at the Mighty 8th Museum and wait on two dachs- hunds.

What are your hopes and dreams for the GMH? That it will be treated with respect.

What is your favorite story or

memory of the GMH? The friend- ship be- tween Green and Sherman.



A LOOK AT THE GREEN-MELDRIM HOUSE GUEST REGISTER.

During the month of March 2024, the Green-Meldrim House saw visitors from around the country and around the world. Interesting hometown names included Peterbor- ough, NH; Lambertville, NJ; Brook Park, MN; Hagerstown, IN; Fairfield, CT; West Chester, PA; Marietta, OH; Coy, NC; Kinmundy, IL; Hampton Bay, NY; Swanzey, NH; Seymour, TN; Lebanon, TN Taylorsville, UT; All Saints, Hillsboro, OR; Kansas City, MO; Omaha, NE; Queensbury, NY; Cedar Fall, IA; Keokee, VA; Al- buquerque, NM; Appleton, WI; Con- way, AR; Fremont, NE; Great Falls,

Montana. Some of our international guests were from Winnipeg, MB, Canada; Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, CA; Guelph, Ont., CA; Orpington, England; Venezuela.

How did they hear about us? History teacher, web, friend, Google, walked by!, tour books, tour guide, my great-great grandfather fought with Gen. Sherman on the March to the Sea, Internet, Cynthia Sorel, Ducks Unlimited, brochure, Debbie J., Katie T. JoAnne B., Gaye C., reading, city tour pass, my mom, historic markers/seen on walk, heard about it on a guided walk, bus tour, history major, John Leonti, brochure at hotel, daughter, Steve, etc.!

Comments: *Superb! Fabulous Tour. Amazing guide! John was a great host! Beautiful home & history! Great! Lovely building, interesting guide. Loved the tour! Gorgeous and such great tour guides! Beautiful building! Wonderful day! Great look into US History. Just 1 Day! Our First Stop Here! Good interpretation. My 70th Birthday! What a treat. TY John. My g.gr. grandfather was a reserivist under Sherman. Love the house. We loved it! So much history. Everything I thought it would be! Karen is an excellent docent! Awesome tour/ Excellent guides. Beautiful—oozing in history.*

THE LAWN – CONNECTION

Jennifer McCarthy, who works with the house's object collection, became curious about the Green's "other home" and conducted an Internet search revealing interesting connections between The Lawn and the Green-Meldrim House that offers the docent more than just a passing remark.



For one thing: The Lawn was not the ancestral home (as I assumed) of Lucy Hunton Green. It was built at the same time as the Savannah house. The VA Department of Historic Resources (DHR/VA) web listing states, it "was established in 1855 as a country home" for the Greens in Greenwich, VA, wife Lucy's home community. DHR/VA continues, "He (Green) built a fanciful complex of Carpenter's Gothic structures . . . The Greenwich buildings appeared quite foreign to the area. One Civil War visitor described the house as 'the strangest in Virginia.'"

Another article (John Toler's "Recalling The Lawn at Greenwich") about Greenwich offers metaphysically that *the soul* of the community was the Greenwich Presbyterian Church, and *the heart* was The Lawn, located "just east of Vint Hill at the intersection of Vint Hill Road (Rt. 215) and Greenwich Road (Rt. 603)." Greenwich is an unincorporated community in Prince William County, VA, the county seat of which is Manassas. The area is now part of the metropolitan area of Washington, DC known as Northern Virginia.

Toler also says, Charles Green "was frequent visitor to Greenwich, as his sister [Elizabeth Green Low, who ac-

companied CG to England during the infamous trip to equip a blockade runner with arms for the Confederacy] lived there. The family spent each summer in Greenwich and became part of the community." As an aside, the article says Andrew Low frequented there as well. [The article notes Andrew Morton Low married Elizabeth Moxley, daughter of Aminta Moxley in 1859, and purchased a house nearby called Vint Hill in 1860.] Of The Lawn, Toler writes that in 1855 Green bought 22 acres from his wife's grandmother, Mrs. Aminta Moxley, "and built a Carpenter Gothic mansion on the property . . . which he called The Lawn. The house was completed in 1861, and would serve as the Greens' summer home." And, though their Savannah home was their primary residence, "Lucy returned to Greenwich for the births of their children."

In McCarthy's search she found an article about The Lawn with the fortuitous title, "***Cotton helped build The Lawn at Greenwich.***" As Civil War fighting neared Greenwich, Charles Green "protected The Lawn by flying the Union Jacks over the house, and by virtue of his English citizenship, declared the property's neutrality." (Toler) [Was writer Toler aware that Green had been put in jail and

made to take a “modified” oath of allegiance to the United States in 1861 in order to return to his southern family?]

Aminta Green lived on at The Lawn and with her passing the property was left to Charles Green’s daughters Mary and Anne. The DHR’s listing offers that Julien Green, who must have visited the house while attending UVA, “used it as the setting for his novel *Maud*.” The main house burned in 1924 and was replaced with a Tudor Revival style building in 1926.

Of the Presbyterian church noted as the soul of the community, Toler says it was founded by Aminta Moxley in 1802. Of the substantial brick building started in 1859, Green financed the construction. There is a memorial plaque to Lucy Green there which credits her as the leader of the movement to construct the edifice. Charles, Lucy and Aminta, as well as other family members, are buried in the church yard. JC

Maritime Law of Interest!

We would love know the names of the ships Charles Green owned, if he owned any. Either way, he would have known the “rules of the sea.” This appeared in an April 1854 Savannah newspaper.

COLORED SEAMEN.

In the British House of Commons, on the 20th ult., Mr. Kinnard put the following motion: “In what state the correspondences between the British and United States Governments with reference to colored seamen, being British subjects, on the vessels to which they belong arriving at a point in any of the Southern States, being imprisoned on

account of their color, now is: and whether there would be any objections to lay the correspondences on the table of the House?”

In reply, Lord John Russell stated “that there had been a great deal of correspondence, and beneficial changes had been proposed in Georgia and Carolina, which would soon be carried into effect. He thought it was better not to produce the correspondence, as hopes were entertained that there would be great improvement in the legislation of the States he had mentioned.”

Lord John Russell is manifestly ignorant of the important action already taken on this subject, by one of the States to which he alludes. In Georgia the offensive law was changed two months since. As amended, vessels having one board negro seamen, are no longer subjected to forty days quarantine as formerly, with penalty, in case of violation, of imprisonment of such seamen in the country jail during the presence of the vessel in port. The amended law, as approved by the Governor, February 7th, 1854, simply requires the master or owner of every vessel from any port, other than the ports of South Carolina and Florida, “immediately upon his arrival at any port in this State, to report to the Mayor or other chief magistrate or competent authority, at the place of arrival, the name, age, description, and capacity of every free person of color, descended from negroes or mulattoes employed on board his vessel, and to obtain a passport from such authority, to permit such person of color to land, it being within the discretion of such Mayor or authority to grant or refuse said passport.

We are of opinion that John Bull will rarely, if ever, have occasion to com-

plain of the operation of this amended law.

Savannah Daily Georgian, April 11, 1854.

SAVANNAH ARCHITECTURE AND ART WEEKEND

SAAW was a grand success in March with all of our partners working together. Special thanks to the **Magnificent 8!**

Leigh Keno of Antiques Roadshow fame examined GMH furniture. A big discovery, he said the chest, which all thought came with C. Green from Liverpool, is really a 20th century piece! More on that later.

