



# TALKIN' BOUT—THE GREEN-MELDRIM HOUSE



JULY 2025

## VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

GREENMELDRIMHOUSE.ORG

912/233-3845

**TEMPER OF THE TIMES.** *The first and last pages of the newsletter are from articles appearing in Savannah newspapers in July 1855.*

**A Sleeping Watchman.** – A foot policeman, named CONROY, was brought before the Mayor yesterday, charged with being asleep at his post. He was fined \$10, and his services dispensed with.

*Savannah Morning News.* July 3, 1855.

**EXCURSION TO TYBEE.** - The steamer St. Johns, Captain FREE-



BORN, having been thoroughly

repaired and painted, will resume her trips to Florida on Saturday next. On Wednesday afternoon she will go on an excursion to Tybee, leaving Wood's wharf at three o'clock.

*Savannah Morning News.* July 3, 1855.

### NOTICE

THE FOURTH OF JULY will be celebrated by the

Savannah Volunteer Guards in the manner usual with the corps.

The **Declaration of Independence** will be read by W. S. Daniell, Esq., and an Oration delivered by Y. J. Anderson, Esq., at ten o'clock, A.M., at the Athenaeum.

The public generally are invited to attend.

M. S. BASINGER, R. CARRUTHERS, J. B. PRESTON, - Committee S.V.G.  
*Savannah Morning News.* July 3, 1855.

### SUMMER RESORT.

The undersigned having leased the Point at Thunderbolt formerly occu-

ried by Mrs. Mather, would respectfully announce to his Friends and the Public, that he will keep it open during the Summer Months for the recreation of visitors.

### BATHS.

A commodious Bath House, open to the ingress of the tide, and where Persons may Bathe at any hour of the day, is in close proximity to the house.

WM BEENKEN.

*Savannah Morning News.* July 3, 1855.

### Negro Woman and Child for Sale.

A good fair cook, washer and ironer, and house servant, aged about 20 years, with her child about 2 years. Sound and healthy. Sold for de-fault.

*Savannah Morning News.* July 3, 1855.

### CANDY AND SODA WATER

Establishment,

Cor. Of Broughton & Whitaker strs., Savannah, Georgia.

### M. FITZGERALD,

Successor to T. C. Rice, Manufacturer and dealer in every variety of common and fine CANDIES, kiln-dried, and warranted to resist effectually the hot damp atmosphere of a Southern climate; also, Lemon and Strawberry Syrup, &c.

The Ladies are most respectfully informed, that his SODA WATER FOUNTAINS are now in full play; his Syrups pure and of the finest flavors, and the attendance prompt, all combining to make the "old resort" the most desirable place in the city, to obtain a refreshing draught.

*Savannah Morning News.* July 3, 1855.

**Orderly.** – The city was very quiet on the 4<sup>th</sup>, and few disorderly persons were seen in the streets. Some four or

five individuals were yesterday morning brought before the Mayor, charged with intemperance. In consideration of its being the "4<sup>th</sup>," they were dismissed without fine.

*Savannah Morning News.* July 6, 1855.

There was an **immense anti-liquor law demonstration** in the Park on Monday evening, at which upwards of ten thousand persons were present. Strong speeches were made, and strong resolutions passed by the meeting. The speakers generally counselled the people to pay all obedience to the law which was to go into operation on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst.

*Savannah Morning News.* July 6, 1855.

### STRAYED,

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of the last Month, two Milch Cows; one an old cow, black head, body nearly all white – the other young dun color, a little white on the back. A liberal reward will be given to anyone that will return them to me, at Jasper Spring Garden, or give me information so that I can get them.

Dr. E. Parsons

*Savannah Morning News.* July 6, 1855.

### THE CENTURY PLANT.

We paid a visit yesterday morning to the Gymnasium on South Broad street, where the wonder of the floral kingdom is at present on exhibition. The plant, which stands twenty-four feet high, has now several hundred blooms, and presents a very



*July 1855 quotes. Cont'd on the last two pages.*

## GREEN-MELDRIM HOUSE CALENDAR

July 2025

Thursday, July 3 from 5 to 7 p.m. –

Youth Guide Training Program

Friday, July 4 - GMH Closed

Monday, July 7 from 9:30 a.m. to

12:30 p.m. – GMH Docent

Training Course

- 5 to 7 p.m. – Youth Guide

Training Program

Thursday, July 10 5 to 7 p.m. –

Youth Guide Training Program

Monday, July 14 from 9:30 a.m. to

12:30 p.m. – GMH Docent

Training Course

- 2 p.m. – Keepers Finance

meeting

- 5 to 7 p.m. – Youth Guide

Training Program

Monday, July 14 from 9:30 a.m. to

12:30 p.m. – GMH Docent

Training Course

Monday, July 28 from 9:30 a.m. to

12:30 p.m. – GMH Docent

Training Course

- Know about **THE SUNDAY**

**CELEBRATION** FOR GMH ANNUAL  
GIVING DONORS AND PATRONS and  
Savannah VOICE Festival Patrons –  
Sunday, August 3 from 1 to 3 p.m.



### SOPHIE'S SHOP:

- Continue to remind guests to stop in the shop for a memento of their visit to the GMH.

- When asked for a description an intern said: **Sophie's Shop is an eclectic mix of home décor and accessories, locally made tasty treats, stationery and artwork, books, sweet smelling personal**

*care items, as well as products for children --- and so much more!!*

### DOCENTS:

Please know that the **Summer Docent Training Program** is scheduled for Mondays in July beginning on July 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

· MONDAY, JULY 7 – **Welcome, National Historic Landmark, Gothic Architecture, The Neighborhood, Boom Town Savannah** [*Spending time outside*]

· MONDAY, JULY 14 -- **Interiors, John Norris, Art in the Home, Factors, Family, Sophie Meldrim Shonnard**

· MONDAY, JULY 21– **Sherman, March to the Sea, Charles Green's House CW Celebrity, Mr. Green and the CW**

· MONDAY, JULY 28 – **Tour Giving, Safety, Close-up Loose Ends**  
- **Overly Long?:** Please do not give overly long tours knowing that our guests have other places to see. Be brief and delightful.

### PARKING LOT:

Starting July 1 the parking lot that GMH utilizes, which is owned by **St. John's Church**, will be managed by a third-party parking management company after hours. This will not affect GMH people unless their vehicle is in the lot after 6 p.m. or on the weekends. If you plan to be in the lot at those times, let Jamie or Jennifer know so that you can provide the system with a one-time only code. This is a new endeavor. We want to work for volunteers and patrons. We will keep you updated as to its progress.

**GMH FRIENDS Thank You** –  
SUNDAY CELEBRATION THANK

YOU: The **Savannah VOICE Festival** and the **Green-Meldrim House** will cohost a thank you celebration for Patrons and Friends on Sunday, August 3 from 1 to 3 p.m. This will be a drop-in event with beautiful music and summer afternoon treats. Put it on your calendar!

### YOUTH GUIDES:

Two young people are taking **Youth Guide Training** this summer – **Maren Haenel**, who attends Savannah Arts Academy, and **Maggie Smith**, who attends Chatham Academy. Two YGs attended the Governor's School in June/July - **Ashley Carnes** in flute and **Cora Varnedoe** in history. **Sofia Allman**, **Ashley Carnes**, **Alicia Fernandez**, **Samatha Lehto**, and **Kennedy Levy** are rising seniors at SAA. **Jude Merchant**, **Francis Drey**, and **Francie Tedder** are rising juniors at SAA. **Cora Varnedoe** is a rising junior at South Effingham High School.

### WORTH MENTIONING:

- **Tight Squeeze of Fabulousness:** The museum office has become research-central this summer. With four college interns doing various projects and little traditional workspace, it has nonetheless become abuzz with new finds. Please mark your calendar for **Friday, August 15** for an **INTERN/VOLUNTEER THANK YOU LUNCH AND SUMMER PROJECT REVIEW!**

- **Sign-Up Genius.** Please check **Sign-Up Genius** to see if you are signed up for when you want to be signed up. Note: Sometimes the boxes in **Sign Up Genius** get reversed from what you have been used to seeing. It is best to double-check to make sure you are in the correct box— be it Door, Upstairs, Down-

stairs. Also, please note, if you can and will do the “whole house” on the shift you are signed-up.

- **Ask guest to sign the Guest Register and Suggest Writing a Social Media Review:** A June 28 Google Review from **Daniel Rodriguez** with the original language Spanish says: *It was incredible, one of the best guided tours of historic homes I've had in the US. The house is well worth the visit, and the quality of the guides is even more so. I highly recommend it.* Nice!

- **Successful Reunion:** **Charles Orr**, the organizer for the Nimmons family reunion on June 21 writes, “*You, and the docents at the MGH knocked the ball out of the park! According to feedback we got from family members, the GMH rated number one on our guided tour excursions last Saturday. I can’t thank you and your volunteer staff enough for making the 2025 Descendants of Isaac Nimmons Family Gathering and History Conference in Savannah a great success and memorable experience.*” Though a sweltering day, GMH volunteers provided a meaningful experience for the group. Thank you to **Francis Drey, Samantha Lehto, John Leonti, Kennedy Levy, Raleigh Marcell, Karen Menatti, Anne O’Neill, Kathy Ogden, Brady Rupard, John Sorel, Francie Tedder, Pam Tucker, Steve White-way.**



**Pretty Pink Plates:** See the luncheon table setting in the Dining Room with

French (Limoge) and English (Spode) china. The salad plate is French and the dinner plate and dessert plate are English. These are 20th century ceramics which were collected by **St. John’s Church.**



#### INTERN SPOTLIGHT

**Name: April Moore**

- **Hometown:** Grand Rapids, Michigan

- **College:** SCAD

- **Level:** Graduate

- **Major:** Art History

- **Summer Goal:** To gain experience in a house museum setting and further my research skills.

- **Research Topic:** The Meldrim girls and how life was for women of their social class in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

- **Career Goal:**

Work in an art museum then get my PhD and work at a university.

- **Dream Job:**

Curator at the DIA (Detroit Institute of Art) or the Isabella Stewart Gardiner Museum.

- **Something you would like for the GMH people to know:** My previous career was as a costume designer, and I am a trained Shakespearean actor.



**Name: Anne O’Neill**

**Hometown:** Statesboro, GA

**College:** Georgia College and State University (Milledgeville, GA)

**Level:** Junior

**Major:** History

**Summer Goal:** Make connections, learn about the behind the scenes of a museum, strengthen my research skills.

**Research Topic:** Green family descendants – creating a family tree.

**What are your impressions of the GMH?** The staff and volunteers are

so friendly and knowledgeable; how beautifully preserved the house is.

**Career goal:** Archivist

**Dream job:** University Special Collections, a smaller niche museum, a house museum.

**Something you would like GMH people to know.**

That I have already learned so much about this field that I know will help me in the future. That I immediately felt welcome. Despite this house’s history and the huge amount of research that has been done, there are still so many stories to discover.

#### A LOOK AT THE GREEN-MELDRIM HOUSE GUEST REGISTER.

**During the month of June 2025,** the GMH saw visitors from across the country and the world. The international visitors, who signed the guest book, were from Ottawa, Canada; Newport Beach – Copenhagen; Punta Cana, DR; Chester, England; London, England; Madrid, Spain.

**Interesting hometown names include** Garden City, AL; Hartselle, AL; Paragould, AR; Waterbury, CT; Middletown, DE; St. Augustine; Senoia, GA; Madison, IN; Oelwein, IA; Manhattan, KS; Cherryfield, MN; Cofton, MD; Monroe, MI; Owatonna, MN; Lincoln, NE; Marlton, NJ; Four Oaks, NC; Beaver, OH; Lancaster, OH (Sherman’s hometown!); Clearfield, PA; Uniontown, PA; Rogersville, TN; Brenham, TX; Wylie, TX; St. Albans, WV; Waukesha, WI; etc.

**How they heard about us?** Walking tour of Savannah; bus tour, Essential Guide, friend, online search, guidebook, brochure, tour, Walking Tour-Genteel & Bards, *2024 Insider’s*



**Guide**, visiting all the homes, Rebecca is great-great-great-granddaughter of C.J. Towbridge, Google, bike tour, Tru Helms, Low House, ghost tour, researching points of interest; researching of sites to see in Savannah, Visitor Center, tour guide, social media, Mercer Williams House, Andrew Low House staff, next to church, Trip Advisor, *We love Sherman*.

**Comments:** *Wonderful restorations. Beautiful home – don't make them like this anymore. I love Savannah! So insightful and this house has amazing stories. Lovely! Wonderful guides. John – Wow Loved! Amazing tour! Fantastic tour by John L! Woo! Love the molding. Grand! Incredible history! Closed my eyes upstairs in the office – so much history! Very interesting – Pam did a great job! Thankful for the cool water. Beautifully presented home. Love this tour! Fun! Very informative. A+. Love this tour! Pocket doors are cool. Sherman's March to the Sea!!!! Wonderful tours – Thanks, Jennifer. Fantastic history. Ladies' enthusiasm made history alive!!! Keep up the good work. Bravo!*

---

## COMMENTS ON IRELAND: HISTORIC HOUSE OF IRELAND

In June I completed a course entitled *The Historic House of Ireland*, which I started in September 2022. Me, along with 12 or so others, came down with Covid-19 (this bout is not to be confused with the one from last summer when I attended the Victorian Society of America's London Summer School) and missed

the second half of the course, which was created and executed by The Attingham Trust. We were all disappointed, but chalked it up to the times. Then there was talk of a **redo** for those who missed the end of the program. All of those who did signed up. It was a delight to rejoin the acquaintances from 2022 – all historic house folk, including the curator emeritus of the Scottish National Trust, the curator of European Art from the University of Rochester, two architects – one from Philadelphia and one from NYC, and interior designer Danielle Oke from Savannah.

The goal of the program was to “examine the Irish country house and its wider estate, and its changing ownership and presentation.” The houses we saw in 2022 were Castletown, Kilruddery, Newbridge House, Monksgrange and the Dunbrody Famine Boat. The ones in 2025 were Woodhouse, Curraghmore, Bantry, Drishane, Dromana, Lismore Castle, Kilshannig, Cappoquin House, Emo Court!

I will present a couple of programs related to my experiences once I collect my thoughts. But here are a few immediate impressions:

1. **Programs with connections get you in!** The Attingham Trust has connections, which allowed us entry and/or experiences we would not have had otherwise. We met the owners of properties, and in most cases, they acted as our tour guides. One owner noted that he enjoyed this sort of group, because it helped him figure out “best practices” for historic preservation of his property through conversations with participants. The most splendid experience happened the first day of the program. Following a

champagne reception and personal tour of Lismore Castle by the manager of the house, which is owned by the Duke of Devonshire – a patron of the Attingham Trust, we had a seated dinner in the Pugin Hall served – a la **Downton Abbey** – by the house's staff. The menu included salmon caught from the river behind the castle and strawberries pavlova, which I still dream about. One of our colleagues from 2022, who did not get Covid, sponsored the dinner! In conversations on the bus home, we realized that anyone can have dinner there. . . for a price. The castle can be rented for 63,400 Euros per week . . . So, while it is good to travel solo, group adventures with experienced plan-



ners can be magical.

2. **It is better with a buddy:** I have traveled alone a bit. When you do, your senses are heightened – I wonder if it is the survival instinct. I am always proud of myself when I am able to maneuver transportation and lodging all by myself. However, it is better with a partner. The Attingham group was small, so it was a little miracle that two of us from Savannah were on the list – **Danielle Oke** and me. We managed the changes to our flight over, taxis/buses and trains, hotel bookings together – nice.

3. **Waterproof shoes and being willing to step in it!** I was proud that

I chose shoes that would keep me dry. It was over-cast most days – with showers off and on. This did not deter



us, in fact it was splendid. Several of our hosts said, “I wish we would have some sun for you.” I thought to myself, “I got sun in Savannah.” In the 60-degree temps on wet days I walked gardens with stunning views of the Irish countryside. In fact, the most pleasant memory for me wasn’t the dinner in the castle, but the feeling of walking in a daisy field in an apple orchard and through a stand of ancient yew trees (13<sup>th</sup> century trees) with a group of people who were as happy as I was to be there. All our cares disappeared at that moment. I hope visitors to Savannah – who have looked forward to being here for a long time – have the same feeling – even when it is hot.

4. **Don’t let the jeans fool you.** At two different places, the hostesses looked smashing and wore jeans! At each stop a participant was chosen to deliver a group thank you and present the host or hostess with a gift – a book – from the group. As we sat in the café Curraghmore, home of **Lord and Lady Waterford**, having a cup of tea and a biscuit, we were told to expect Lady Waterford who would accept our thanks. When the representative said, “I am waiting for Lady Waterford,” she was actually there all along, serving us tea in her jeans

and puffer jacket. The most resolute of our hostesses, Barbara Grubb of Drishanne appeared in jeans, a light blue button down shirt with a matching blue and cream cotton sweater with a floral design and sensible shoes – all immaculate. She said it was her “cocktail outfit.” She recounted the history of her family on the property which goes back 26 generations and then she made us lunch! Which was perfect – a terrine. As she discussed running her home – which includes catering for groups, running a vacation rental and opening the grounds for hikers, she mention finding a theatrical curtain at a thrift shop – dying it, washing it and making it into curtains for their meeting room . . . In a world where women’s apparel is much commented on, these women dress for the task at hand.



5. **It never ends:** The trails of Lord Grantham at **Downton Abbey** – are the trials of Barbara Grubbs, Lord and Lady Waterford, and Brigitte Shelwell-White at Bantry. Managing their property and seeing it safely into the hands of the next generation is an all-encompassing charge. To drive income at Curraghmore, the Waterfords open their property for an annual concert attended by 30,000 people, as well as being a location for movie production (the exterior of the house). Brigitte at Bantry, who acted as our guide, has turned over the management of her home to her 34-year-



old, youngest daughter, Julie, who talked with us about the wedding business on the property. Brigitte and Julie’s home is stunning and eclectic with a saga to match its magnificence. Continuing money troubles forced the sale of property and collection items – one by one – to keep the place repaired and going. One could feel the weariness in Bridgitte’s voice as she spoke about the realities of keeping Bantry – its collection, gardens and house -- together AND accessible to the public. While these great houses exude glamor, the realities are the work is never ending – just like at the GMH!

6. **A sense of coming into their own:** There was much talk about what country houses mean to Ireland and to the Irish. In 2022, one presenter said that they have no real connection to the lives of the majority of Irish people. In the past they were symbols of colonization and oppression by the English. Many – hundreds (275 to 300) – were burned during the Revolution. However, others -- particularly our younger colleagues - noted that as times have changed, these places, which often are open to the public and have parklands for recreation, are valued and used. As scholarship and study reveal that these Irish houses were not provincial mimics of English taste, but distinctive and complicated expressions of culture, their presentation and value are “coming into their own.”

There is much more to come about this. Much more to share.

## WHEN JULIAN GREEN FIRST LAID EYES ON THE GMH!

From: Julian Green. *Love in America: Autobiography*  
Volume III (1919-1922).

“Early on the morning of 12 or 13 June, I found myself at Washington’s immense white railway station waiting for the express train to Savannah.

Seeing the expanse of brown muddy water over which the train passed, I remember what my mother had said about the Seine: ‘At home, this river would scarcely be worthy of a name’. Yet in my memory, the green Seine seemed delightful compared to this monstrous mass of brown water moving darkly toward the Atlantic.

[His aunt picked him up at the station at night.] “I saw nothing of the town except for the shining lights, which were reflected like a mirror in the wet asphalt, and some large squares filled with trees whose leaves gleamed like metal. In her soft voice, my aunt told me the names of the streets and the squares, and I was mildly surprised, if I had not heard any of these names since the death of my mother, and here I could sense my mother’s presence everywhere.”

“Through the sash windows, partly blocking the sky, I could see the fine tower of the . . . Presbyterian church. . . A small street led into a broad, tree-lined avenue. My mother had known all this. I was in the town, the mere mention of whose name used to cause her to sigh with sadness, over there far away and long ago in the Rue de Passy in 1905.”

“The first visit I paid in this town was to my paternal grandfather’s former home. Situated at the corner of a

large square, half-hidden by banana trees and oleanders, it had an unexpected appearance of a fifteenth-century English house surrounded by tropical vegetation. In fact, my grandfather had meant it to be in the Tudor style, which was fashionable at the time, and Tudor, it certainly was, with its little intersections that rose in semi-circles above the garden. Seen from a distance, low, long and painted in pale ochre, it looks rather astonishing, yet it had presence, and it had a place in the history of the town. I have my grandfather’s account books and apparently the house was completed on the eve of the declaration of war between North and South. When after three and a half years, Georgia was invaded and Savannah captured, my grandfather, who was a British subject, offered a floor of his house to Sherman, the victorious general, not because he respected him in the least, but because he wished to spare his Southern friends the great inconvenience of lodging a man who was known for his cruelty. Towards 1895, the house was acquired by Judge Meldrim whose family received me with all possible courtesy. I was shown the large reception rooms, decorated with such an abundance of stucco that I might have been in a cave hung with stalactites. I was enchanted by the library with its walls of books on top of which stood Roman busts, and I examined the spiral staircase which was supposed to be haunted.”

“It’s your house”, laughed one of the girls who was acting as a guide.

I laughed too, amused at first, then slightly saddened to think that all this might have belonged to me: these vast, square, rather sombre rooms whose large mirrors now reflected the penniless grandson of an immensely

rich grandfather. I think it was the only moment in my life when the desire to possess something really considerable crossed my mind, but that moment did not last long and, once outside in the street, I no longer gave it a thought. I have unfortunately known many desires, some of them violent ones, but the lust for money has been spared me.”



---

### ***TEMPER OF THE TIMES*** **QUOTES.** Cont'd from p. 1.

novel and pleasing spectacle – one which, when we consider that another hundred years must roll around, and generations must pass away, before it will again glad the eye of mortals with the garniture of flowers, should not be lost by those who have now an opportunity of beholding it. The place of the exhibition is very favorable, and the plant is arranged in such a manner as to give the most imposing effect. Mr. Thomas, the exhibitor, takes pleasure and pains in giving much interesting information connected with the history of the plant which as our readers are aware was grown on Wilmington Island.

The exhibition is open every morning and afternoon, and is well worth the price of admission.

*Savannah Morning News.* July 4, 1855.

### **The Weather North and South.**

The weather for the month passed has been more unexceptionable for the season. Instead of the intensely hot, dry atmosphere which parched the life out of vegetation, and almost suffocated us last year, we have had frequent and copious showers, refreshing breezes and a mild temperature of heat since summer set in. While we read of the intense heat in the Northern cities, of deaths by sun-stroke in the daytime, and people being driven to their house-tops to sleep at night, we have nothing to complain of the now-a-day heat, while the late moon-light nights have been cool and delightful as those of early Spring. On Thursday night it was cool enough to make even a blanket endurable at least. What a mistake our friends have made, who have gone North in search of comfort!

*Savannah Morning News.* July 7, 1855.

**Rev. James E. Godfrey** informs us that he found yesterday in the city, a little negro girl, about seven years of age, who says her name is *Sophy*, and that she belongs to a Mr. Gylle, who resides in White Bluff. We did not learn in what manner she came to the city. Mr. Godfrey will have her taken care of until her owner claims her.

*Savannah Morning News.* July 7, 1855.

### **Turtle! Turtle! Turtle!**

80 Green Turtles, weighing from 15 to 50 lbs. just received from sloop *Carrie Dove*, from Indian River. For sale by Wm. M. Davidson.

*Savannah Morning News.* July 23, 1855.

### **Wanting to Hire.**

A Negro Girl, about twelve to fifteen years of age, one that confidence can be placed in as a nurse for an infant. Apply to WELLS AND WILLIAMS'

*Savannah Morning News.* July 23, 1855.

### **WATERMELONS AS ARE WATERMELONS!**

We received last evening, from MR. J. S. Turner, a watermelon nearly three feet in length and about the same measurement in circumference – decidedly the finest watermelon we have seen this season. The lovers of this grateful fruit will be pleased to learn from the advertisement in another column, that Mr. T. will have a choice supply at the Exchange Dock this morning. They were picked from the vines on Saturday evening, and to protect them from the sun – were brought from the Island in this city last night.

*Savannah Morning News.* July 23, 1855.

**The Season at Saratoga**, so far, is said to be not very successful. Only a few Southern families are there, most of them, this year, preferring the more quiet but less pleasant watering places of the South. The various Springs in Virginia will probably attract many who have heretofore been in the habit of spending the summer in the North.

*Savannah Morning News.* July 23, 1855.

### **A Party.**

A GERMAN BALL will be given at John D. Fisher's, near the Thunderbolt Road, on Thursday next, 24<sup>th</sup> inst.

*Savannah Morning News.* July 23, 1855.

**Big Potatoes.** – We saw yesterday a sample specimen of Irish potatoes grown by Mr. John E. Davis at his place on the river above Giles and Bradley's Mill which we think would compare favorably, both in size and quality, with any other individual members of the same tubular family, native or foreign. They are of the species called Western Red, and so large that only a few can find boiling accommodation in a common sized dinner pot. Those who have tested them pronounce them of very excellent quality. We understand the Western Reds are

for sale in several stalls in the market and at many of the family grocery stores in the city.

*Savannah Morning News.* July 27, 1855.

**A Brutal Murder.** - The body of A.J. Orr, of Macon, a contractor on the Savannah and Albany Railroad, was found yesterday morning, about eight miles from Hinesville, where he had been most brutally murdered. It appears that a negro belonging to Mr. Orr had been run away for some time, and had been arrested and lodged in jail in South Carolina, whither Mr. Orr had gone to bring him back. On Wednesday evening last they were seen on their way home, the negro walking handcuffed, but with a stick in his hands, behind Mr. Orr. This circumstance becoming known to Mr. O.'s overseer, his suspicions were sent in search, in the direction in which Mr. Orr and his negro were seen. The search was unsuccessful, and yesterday morning it was resumed, all the negroes in the camp being sent out. The body was found within about a mile and a half of his camp. His head was broken in several places, and his boat bearing the mark of his having been stabbed. It is supposed the negro struck him from behind and knocked him from his horse, and afterwards inflicted the other wounds, and then dragged the body into the woods about one hundred yards. The saddle on which Mr. Orr rode was also found but his horse, watch, and money were taken. The negro is still at large.

Mr. Orr was a very extensive contractor, and is described as having been a kind and generous master.

*Savannah Morning News.* July 30, 1855.