

Spring 2020

The LEGACY

A Publication of Watson-Brown Foundation, Inc.

Expedition FOR EDUCATION

— ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT —

T.R.R. COBB'S

FLICK OF A

Fan

PLIGHT

— AT THE —

Museum



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OUR MISSION

The Watson-Brown Foundation, through creativity, diligence and financial support, labors to improve education in the American South by funding its schools and students, preserving its history, encouraging responsible scholarship and promoting the memory and values of our spiritual founders.

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CAMPUS NOTES



Watson-Brown Scholars in Action

Chelsey Barnes, Vassar College, Sophomore: “As I considered colleges, I knew that I wanted to attend one out of state and far from home. However, when I stepped onto the campus, I thought I had made one of the biggest mistakes in my life. I was so far from anything I’d ever known, and I was lost, confused, and anxious. New York was a completely different atmosphere than Georgia, and I found myself struggling to adjust to the new place and strange people. Throughout my first semester, I was alone and afraid, caught up in my past and finding it hard to look toward the future. Nevertheless, as time passed, I grew accustomed to the place, and though it took an entire semester to adjust, I’m extremely happy that I decided to go to Vassar. I’ve had so many fun adventures with friends exploring the campus, while also hanging out and studying. I love the classes, as well as the professors, because I feel like they really care about the students and our well-being. I was involved in several clubs during the first semester, such as ACCESS, which fights for the rights of persons with disabilities, as well as Planned Parenthood and Universal Unitarians, but I spent most of my days and nights studying, whether it be in the library, cafeteria, or the old bookstore. In the end, I did well in all of my classes and left for the summer with a group of friends that I would miss and memories that I cherish. College life isn’t exactly what I expected it’d be, but it’s something I really enjoy, and I’m so excited to start my second year in August.”





TONEIA DOUGLAS

Toneia Douglas, University of South Carolina Columbia, Junior: “Sophomore year has been a tad bit more challenging than freshman year, and I have really had to put my time management skill to the test. The most rewarding part of this year has been my involvement outside of the classroom. Last summer I served as a Summer Seniors counselor for my university. Summer Seniors is a program for rising seniors in high school, who spend a week on campus and learning about the application process and campus history, all while making lifelong connections with potential peers and getting advice from current students. This gave me an opportunity to help prospective students and get them to see why I love my university. I also served on the executive board of the Association of African American Students as secretary, while also being a mentor in the multicultural assistance peer program, a member of the black medical students association, and lastly the 11th student senate. My involvement on campus this year has been extremely rewarding and has taught me a lot about myself and my purpose.”

Yana Gudakova, Clemson University, Sophomore: “My first year at Clemson was incredibly surprising and went above and beyond all my expectations. Everything that I had kept imagining last summer was amplified once I moved into my ninth-floor dorm and started the next chapter of my life as a college student.

“I have always heard people talk about the

‘big moments’ at college like graduation or studying abroad, but I’m a person for little moments and the little moments that were tucked into my Clemson days are the ones that I am going to miss and remember the

most. I’m going to miss the tired, 8 a.m., just-rolled-out-of-bed looks my friend and I exchanged during Spanish, the grunts right before climbing that super big hill on the way back from a football game, and the child-like excitement on my roommate’s face when she saw snow for the first time one day in December.

“If I have not already spent time kicking myself for assuming the worst about college before, I will certainly be doing that for the rest of my life. I’m glad that using a dorm shower felt normal, and, being completely honest, totally clean, that my professors are not scary and actually come to class trying to ‘be hip like the young kids,’ and that there are always others that have my back. Always.

“The day I came home from Clemson and walked back into my room, I was taken aback by how much I missed my small dorm, the 10-minute dash across campus to geology, and the orange sunsets that my roommate and I idolized. I always tell myself to not dwell on my future, but I cannot help but wonder about the day I leave college as a graduate who is leaving behind the chapter of life that I have only just begun.”



YANA GUDAKOVA



Olivia James, Furman University, Sophomore: “My freshman year at Furman University was full of experiences that all contributed to my growth as a citizen, a student, and a person. I was able to solidify my interests in academic subjects and declare two majors: one in mathematics and one in Spanish. I put my experience in these subjects to good use, tutoring my fellow students, along with elementary and high school students at local public schools through Furman’s Service Learning Experience, which is incorporated into all Education Department classes at the university. I was also able to get involved in these subjects in an extracurricular fashion by attending talks and events that brought these subjects out of the classroom into areas that are relevant in daily life, such as activities sponsored by the Modern Language Center and several lectures given by visiting

professors and professionals in different fields.

“I also became involved in a coed service fraternity on campus, Alpha Phi Omega. I rushed in the fall semester, became an initiated ‘brother’ in December, and was able to participate in fellowship, leadership, and service events both semesters. The organization prides itself in upholding the three principles of leadership, friendship, and service by providing workshops and activities for brothers to engage in. Some of our service projects involved planting trees at local community centers, tutoring children in afterschool programs, making blankets for animals at a local Humane Society, and sponsoring a campus cleanup one Sunday afternoon. So far, this organization has kept me involved in community service, while also bringing me closer to my peers. For the fall semester, I have been appointed fundraising chair and hope to grow as a leader by coordinating fundraising events for the chapter.

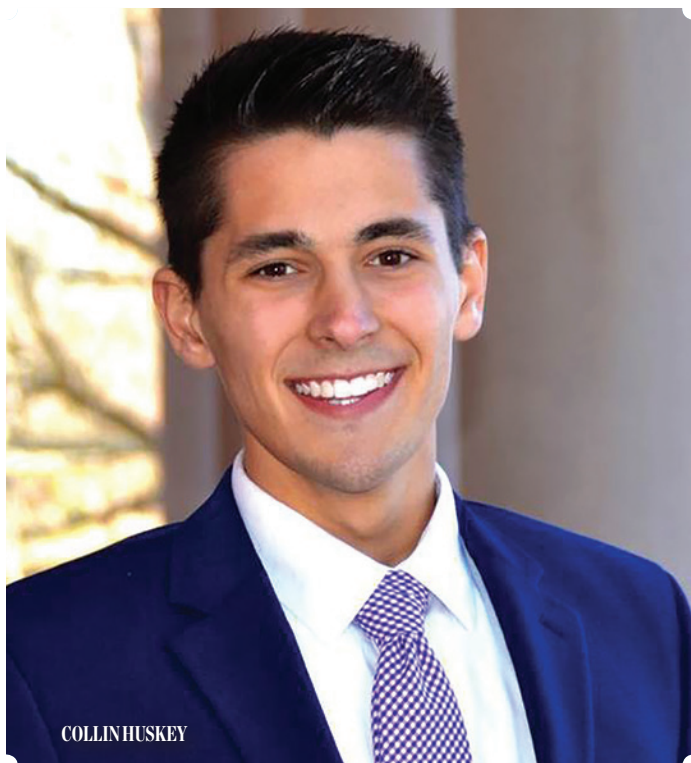
“I am currently involved in a May course that joins the linguistics department with the mathematics department, titled ‘Deciphering Secrets Throughout History.’ The course content seeks to educate students on making and breaking codes and ciphers, drawing from both backgrounds in order to do so. This course is allowing me to explore possibilities in cryptology as a career, while also providing me with more experience in linguistics.

“I am excited for what the next semester brings, with more leadership and involvement in Alpha Phi Omega, along with more in depth courses for both of my majors. I hope to secure a position in the Mathematics Resource Center, an organization at Furman that provides free tutoring to students who are struggling in math. I also hope to engage in research and projects that will deepen my experiences in Spanish and mathematics, while continuing to make connections on and off of campus”.

Edward Frails, Georgia Institute of Technology, Sophomore: “The most enriching experience I had during my first year was meeting such a supportive group of friends. Coming into an academically challenging environment, I had my doubts about whether or not I would be able to succeed given the rigor. However, I found that the challenging coursework brings people together and creates a supportive network of people that allow you to also form a nice balance between social and academic life. This transition from high school to college was very interesting, and I am very excited to pass on knowledge I gained to incoming students as an orientation leader this summer.”

Collin Huskey, Clemson University, Senior: “This academic year, I learned more about myself than I ever imagined possible. I became a Clemson University Tour Guide, an Honors Peer Mentor, and I took my hardest classes to date. In addition to this, however, I also decided to run for student body president alongside my close friend, daughter of the former governor of South Carolina and UN Ambassador. This required 16-plus hours outside of the classroom for several months as I campaigned, interviewed, and spoke at different organizational meetings. This was a very challenging endeavor, but was very rewarding. The ‘Huskey Haley 2019’ campaign (as we called it) received endorsements from football players, student leaders, and even from the first family of the United States. With all of this, I had to learn to be dedicated, committed, and always on top of my game. With all this going on, I was also studying for my MCAT, which took place in March, and raising money for a medical mission trip to Costa Rica. In the midst of what seemed like the busiest and most demanding time of my life, my sweet grandmother passed away and I had to





COLLIN HUSKEY

step away from all that I had going on to grieve and be the emotional support for my family back home. While this was extremely difficult on me emotionally, all of these experiences taught me how to juggle all the fastballs life may throw your way even while having several 'pots in the fire.' It taught me to delegate, to manage my time, and to be the best I could be for those around me at all times. My year finished with a medical school interview, and, ultimately, acceptance to the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville!"

Karley Sanders, University of Georgia, Senior: "This was quite an exciting year for me! I finally switched majors from theatre to art, which may seem like a small thing to some but it made a world of difference in my collegiate experience. My major change allowed me to harvest the fruits of my labor—something I had been struggling with until this point. After two amazing semesters in my new school, I was chosen to attend the Lamar Dodd School of Art's New York City Field Study during a Maymester period this summer. I was so excited to be chosen for this amazing opportunity, and it turned out to be an extremely fruitful experience! Along with visiting local artist studios, museums, exhibits, and shows, I was able to branch out and create my own opportunities. I was able to take a glass-blowing class, something that has been on my bucket list since I was a small child. I received a

certificate from a state-of-the-art special effects makeup class held by one of the leading companies in the professional makeup world (SFX Makeup for Film and Theatre is my targeted career field). Directly after the class, on my very last day in the big city, I was able to make a connection through one of our kind artist lecturers with an artist who worked at a special effects studio in New Jersey. I made the trek over to the studio, which is when I realized that I had been following their work for years! The studio was full of famous pieces for people like Ben Stiller, Heidi Klum, Will Smith, Vincent Price, and even the legendary Rick Baker. I was absolutely gawking over the work, and the artist was kind enough to discuss school plans, career goals, and strategies for integrating into the business. I am currently awaiting a call from the studio's directing artist regarding an internship at Prosthetic Renaissance! This year was certainly one to remember, and it seems as if it might catapult me into the next!"



MARY SALTER

Mary Salter, Georgia Southern University, Junior: "My sophomore year was nothing less than spectacular. I had the privilege of being a peer leader in a classroom full of freshmen. I also had the opportunity to serve as community engagement chair for the leadership program called Southern Leaders. With this position I was able to plan all of the community service events for the entire program. I also was a coach for Southern Leaders, where I was able to teach freshmen how to define their leadership skills. I was picked to be the new new member coordinator for my sorority, Alpha Delta Pi. Within this position, I will be teaching our new incoming members all about Alpha Delta Pi and its rituals and history. I also had the opportunity to attend a mission trip on my spring break to the Dominican Republic, which was absolutely life changing. I will also be a BUILD Returner this summer, where I will spend a week with incoming freshmen doing community service. And I recently just got back from Greek Summit, a Christian camp, where I learned how to be a disciple within my sorority. This year has been full of so many amazing opportunities that have really shaped my time at college. I cannot begin to express how grateful I am that I have been chosen as a recipient of this scholarship. Without this scholarship, I do not know if I would have been able to experience all the things that I have. Thank you again from the bottom of my heart."



KARLEY SANDERS



LARISSA ARIAS

Larissa Arias, University of South Carolina Aiken, Junior: "My 2018-2019 school year was one to remember. I spent countless hours in the library and in the Honor's lounge studying for all of my classes. Fall semester challenged my writing skills, as I had to write several papers in each of my classes. However, I truly believe it made me a better writer, and I gained a lot of knowledge because of all of the interesting and different topics that each of my classes discussed. My favorite and also most challenging course was called 'Science and The Pursuit of Inquiry.' I had to write papers on topics like 'What is science?' or 'What are the ethical and epistemological limits of science?' Although it was tough for me at the time, I enjoyed being able to thoroughly answer these difficult questions that, although one thinks to know the answers, it's tough to put into words. My spring semester involved fewer papers but required a lot of time management. Each of my classes were set up differently, and I had to make sure to adjust to the workload for each class in various ways. I had also never taken seventeen credit hours before, and, even though it was pretty tough, I gave it my all and it showed. Overall, this past school year taught me multiple things, and I'm grateful for each of the challenges I faced. I'm looking forward to this next school year and am hoping to gain even more from it!"

Angela Ashe, Winthrop University, Sophomore: "My first year at Winthrop was nothing short of amazing. The adjustment to being away from home was difficult, and it took a while to make true friends. My first semester was rough: a good friend of mine back home died in a car wreck, I moved

dorms in the middle of the semester, got my heart broken, and changed my major. However, I persisted and kept my academics at the forefront, making the President's List fall of 2018. My spring semester was much better. I found a home in the ceramics studio, made two lifelong friends, kept my GPA up, and got accepted into the Winthrop Orchestra next semester, where I will pick back up on my cello studies. As the year comes to a close, I realize how blessed I am to have a post-secondary education and so many great memories. I always say Winthrop feels like home and that's why you come, and the people here make you feel at home and that's why you stay. Attending college has enabled me to grow intellectually, artistically, musically, and spiritually in ways that high school never could. I am so grateful for my time at Winthrop and I cannot wait to see what the next three years hold in store for me."



ANGELA ASHE



ALEXIUS GARTRELL

Alexius Gartrell, Kennesaw State University, Senior: "This year I was lucky enough to join the Sigma Alpha chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Incorporated here at Kennesaw State University. It is a part of the National Pan-Hellenic Council and was one of the best experiences so far of my college career. I am so excited to see where this newfound involvement takes me. I also participated in a physical therapy internship this semester at Neurosport Physical Therapy, which also gave me a lot of insight on what I would like to do with my major. I gained newfound friends, as well as newfound information on how my major applies greatly outside just from helping people to recover from surgeries or injuries. Junior year for me was very exciting and will probably be one of the best years that I remember from my college experience."





TAYLOR FOWLKS

Taylor Fowlks, Wake Forest University, Senior: “This year was truly a year of growth, maturity, and transformation for me. My experiences stretched far beyond the academic setting in the classroom, and each experience helped to prepare me for adulthood. My greatest accomplishment of this year was becoming a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. It was a very challenging experience, but it has been beyond rewarding. I have made so many incredible friends, and I have been granted so many amazing opportunities because of it. As for other accomplishments, I was awarded Senator of the Year in the Wake Forest University Student Government Association because of my valiant and unwavering dedication towards equality and justice on campus, and I also made the Dean’s List. I was a resident advisor, the community service chair for the Black Student Alliance, and I held an internship at a local law firm off campus. The internship really helped me mature, because it gave me insight into what I would be doing with my career and it taught me time management. As for my personal experiences, I went through a really emotional breakup, which helped me to focus on myself and truly enjoy college from an independent standpoint. My plans for the summer are to travel to Dublin for an internship at a nonprofit. I will be there for six weeks, along with six other Wake Forest students. Overall, I had an incredibly rewarding year. It was very stressful, but I really learned a lot about life, about leadership, and most importantly, about myself. Watson-Brown has truly been an incredible help toward my academic career. Coming from a single parent home, it has been hard to figure out how my mom is going to pay for college. Watson-Brown has helped to not only relieve her worries, but mine as well.”

Misty Henderson, Mississippi State University, Junior: “My favorite college activity is being a member of the rodeo team. This year, I had the opportunity to travel to Alabama, Missouri, and across the state of Mississippi to compete on the MSU Rodeo team. I love the traveling I get to do as part of the team, as well as competing to earn a spot at the College National Finals Rodeo. This year I was not able to compete at all ten of the rodeos, therefore I did not finish in the top three of the Ozark region, but I enjoyed the competition and am ready for next year to compete. Two of my teammates and I travelled together and swapped driving the horse trailer, which made it easier on all of us on the long distance rodeos such as the ones in Missouri and also allowed us to work on class work as we were travelling. The experiences made during college rodeo will last a lifetime.”



MISTY HENDERSON

ALEXIS WREN



Alumni Spotlight

BY SHANNON FRIEDMANN HATCH

Once upon a time, not so long ago, planes left tarmacs and flew into the wild blue yonder, leaving the Earth as carefree as a bird. They pointed to far-off places, rode on adventure, and touched down in alternative, often temporary, transformative realities. Leaving your time zone meant you shed not only hours but also the trappings of your former life. Discovery was inevitable. And no matter if everything you neatly packed was retrieved at baggage claim, you would never be the same person who boarded the plane.

Alexis Wren realized this when she returned from a study abroad trip her

sophomore year of college at Augusta State University. And today, she has committed her career to helping other students experience the value of learning off-campus, off-country through her work as director of programming at Costa Rica Global Learning Programs.

The fact that Alexis's worldview has expanded so broadly is made even that much more dramatic by the fact that it started much smaller. She grew up in Clarks Hill, South Carolina, one of seven kids in a blended family. No internet. No cable. And weekend dinners often equated to whatever she and her siblings and her siblings reeled in—bass, brim, crappie, or catfish. “We scaled the fish

and fried them up,” she remembered. “It was always good.”

Good grades came as easy to her as casting a line. She was the type of student who begged her chemistry teacher to teach an Advanced Placement (AP) chemistry class and who started a club called the Aspiring Political Leaders of America. “For one debate during the 2008 presidential election, I was Rudy Giuliani,” Alexis recalled with a laugh.

When it came to choosing a college, she knew that she'd need scholarships to pay for tuition and living expenses, and The College of Charleston seemed like a good fit. But after one semester, Alexis transferred to Augusta

University. “It was a totally different world, and I struggled socially,” she said of her difficult choice; however, soon she was making lasting friendships with her classmates in her science labs in Augusta, taking to the trails and the rivers with the Outdoor Adventure Club, leading prospective students around campus as a tour guide, and socializing with alumni over barbecues. “Although I’m an introvert, I’ve always enjoyed working with and learning from people and trying new things,” she said.

While earning her bachelor’s degree in chemistry, Alexis learned of an opportunity to tack on a master’s degree in teaching. After graduation, she had the chance to combine both of her passions—science and education—at a school in Costa Rica. “I taught biology, physical science, chemistry, physics, forensic science, technology, and electives like STEM design,” she said. “The weather, the food, the people, the coffee, everything was really, really nice. It rained the entire time and we had no air-conditioning, but I loved it.”

She accepted a job there but when the school that hired her closed down a month later—Alexis toughed it out and eventually found work first as a teacher and then as a technology coach at an education consulting startup and finally in her current role working with study abroad at Costa Rica Global Learning Programs, managing all of the

logistics and creating custom experiences for clients. “We can help with any type of academic program from sports tourism to nursing to community health,” she said. Personally, Alexis has another mission. “I love to share my passion for Costa Rica with people. I refuse to let a student not have a smile on their face the entire time.”

For the moment, the global pandemic has paused discretionary travel and put study abroad

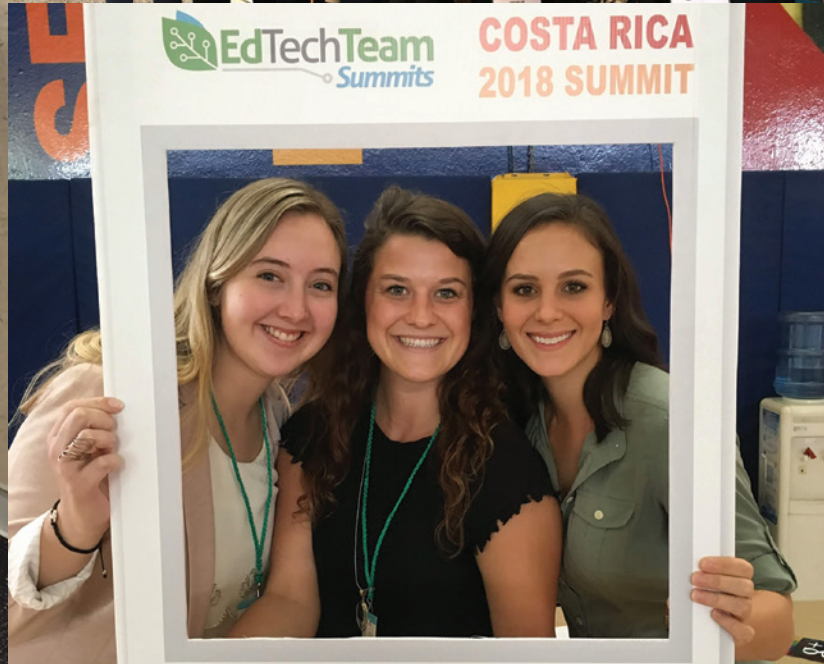
programs on hold. Alexis remains positive and said that she’s “taking advantage of the quarantine” and sketching out the parameters of a full bilingual medical program for future students.

Planes will fly again, and one day they will touchdown on the runway in San José. A bright young woman, maybe from Georgia, will disembark and visit a rainforest for the first time on a biology excursion, sip fresh coffee to get over her slight jet lag, and listen to the water on the roof in her room with the window

open and not even miss A/C. She might even taste fish pulled from the tropical waters and have it remind her of the bass, brim, crappie, or catfish she pulled from the lake as a child and how it sizzled when it hit the cast-iron frying pan.

Discovery is inevitable . . . and Alexis will be waiting.

*“I love to share my passion
for Costa Rica with people”*





Madison Casey sits in the entrance of Little House



LITTLE HOUSE GOES BIG



Goodrum House

BY MADISON CASEY

On the west side of the property of the May Patterson Goodrum House, a small cottage dubbed “Little House” sits just behind the yellow walls. A humble contrast to the main house, the cottage was built for the mansion’s housekeeper, Clara, her son Ken, and her new husband, Robert Cody. Having been May’s architect of choice for everything design-related, including a doghouse for her home on Sea Island, Philip Trammel Shutze was called on to design Little House. We have record of several complete floorplans he drew up for the project; however, none of these complete plans are reflected in the existing layout of

the cottage. Instead, the home’s Classical, symmetrical façade resulted in asymmetry within, leaving us with a several design conundrums as we began to ponder Little House’s next life.

Upon the acquisition of the property by the Watson-Brown Foundation in 2009, both the main house and the cottage underwent extensive restoration; however, the purpose of the main house as a historic house museum was much clearer than that of Little House. We have very few photographs of the cottage at the time Clara lived there, and all are exterior shots. Our only record of anything inside the home has come from Ken’s recollection of the

time, most notably his pull-out sofa bed in the living room, which would be put away every morning, his play space in the attic during the cool days of winter, and boxing matches in the front yard. Thus, the idea of a faithful reproduction of the mid-1930s interiors was not feasible. While the cottage contributes important social context to the overall story, its small rooms preclude it as an addition on the house museum tour. With the development of the house museum itself, the potential for Little House to be temporary living quarters for a visiting scholar, or as a one-year fellowship post for a graduate student, began to be considered.



Antique dining table, chair, and Spode china contrast the Schumacher curtains and upholstered banquette

The cottage's two rooms have seen several iterations over their lifetime, with tenants like Atlanta Architect Henri Jova, famous for his eclectic mixture of modern design with decorative art antiques, and a cousin to May's second husband, Francis Abreu, adding a wall dividing the bedroom, and painting the walls black. In considering the re-adaptation of this historic structure, the appropriateness of its furnishings and design to bridge the gap from last century to now, as well as reflect inspiration from the previous tenants, were of the utmost importance. As a student at an art school

where the emphasis on form and function is at the forefront of the curriculum, I, along with Barbara Hyde, approached the challenge of designing for a small space with the guiding words of William Morris, leading designer of the Arts and Crafts movement in late nineteenth century England, "Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful."

Remembering those words, we began to consider how to reflect the original spirit of the Little House, keeping in mind that Clara would have had hand-me-down

furniture from May, while including pieces reflective of what Clara might have seen throughout her life: the curtains in the bedroom being Morris & Co. design, perhaps something she might have seen at Wolverton House as a young girl in Britain, where she was employed as a scullery maid; the Schumacher curtains in the living room recalling the fabric covering the walls of May's master bedroom; and boxing gloves placed as though Ken just came in from an impromptu match in the front yard with a friend. With the striking, original paint colors from the paint analysis of Little House to guide the design, the 1930s Apple Green wall paint was balanced with cheerful complementary prints, and, as a riff between the main house and the cottage, we included several pieces of chinoiserie-style furniture throughout, suggesting perhaps that May gifted Clara a gilded pagoda mirror or porcelain vases.

While many of the furnishings were found at auction to maintain the historic aspect of the design, the new interpretation of Little House allowed for cottage-inspired pieces from Pottery Barn and Ballard Design. The updated schoolhouse light in the kitchen with clear glass to expose an antique-style bulb coexists with antiques, like the tilt-top breakfast table which can be moved against the wall to save space.

As the cottage was filled with furnishings, a door removed, drapes hung, and lighting installed, it bloomed into a livable space with historic charm and a fresh new look. In contrast to many of today's short-term residences, drowned in shiplap and devoid of personality, the Little House feels as though it's been lent out by its occupant for the weekend, their stocked bar cart adorned with a collection of cut-glass decanters a welcome surprise upon entrance, and the antique China in the cabinets encouraging more than a takeout meal. The home feels neither too archaic, inciting museum-like caution, nor too modern. Instead, the Little House's interior perfectly reflects the lighthearted spirit of the cottage, honoring its former residents with historic considerations, while incorporating imaginative elements to create refuge for our visitors.



Little House built in 1936/37



A reading nook in the bedroom with refinished Ballard Design chair and ottoman upholstered to match Morris & Co. drapery



Twentieth-century Chinese gouaches sit above the bed, flanked by antique side table and ottoman found at auction



SOCIAL DISTANCING IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY



T.R.R. Cobb House

BY SAMUEL N. THOMAS, JR.

In the past few months we've all been practicing social distancing. But social distancing is not a new practice. Much of the world already had a precedence in the use of social distancing before the Covid-19 virus — and I'm not talking about the 1918 flu epidemic.

We had social distancing practices in this country going back more than 100 years earlier than the flu epidemic. Back during the days of Tom Cobb, men and women were already very much aware of social distancing and how to converse with others without invading their personal six-foot buffer. They learned, both men and women, how to use an old instrument — a fan.

Air-conditioning today is taken for granted. But for many of us, especially of my age, growing up in the South meant the common sight of fans being used by most folks. Sitting in our country church in North Carolina during those hot days of summer as my father delivered his sermon, one could see a wave of paper fans fluttering throughout the sanctuary and balcony. Fans have a long history in cultures throughout the world, from the Egyptians, Greeks and Romans to the Chinese, Koreans and Japanese. Fans were a necessary instrument in cooling the body off.

Most people equate fans with women, but men also made use of fans. In some cultures the fan was a symbol of authority, both for civilian as well as military authorities. Samurai soldiers were taught to fight with fans. Western society actually came rather late to the inclusion of fans within the culture. They got their start in Medieval Europe, but it wasn't until the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries that fans began to take on a different purpose and a different art form.

The fan industry nearly died out at the end of the eighteenth century

until its revival by Queen Victoria, who adopted the instrument wholeheartedly. With Victoria's encouragement, the fan quickly became an essential accessory for female dress. In the decades that followed, the European fan industry grew by leaps and bounds and became an important commodity in Western society, so much so, that a very lucrative Chinese export trade developed in supplying the separate skillfully carved sticks needed to construct the fans.

The fan became a highly decorated accessory, reaching its heyday during the Victorian period, especially in the variety of styles and decoration. If Queen Victoria's encouragement of a fan wasn't enough, along came the 1851 International Exhibition in London where fans from all over the world were displayed and judged. With the advent of the international exhibitions and the display of fans, opportunities emerged in improved designs and techniques in fan making. They became larger, more ornate and brightly colored.

So what, you might say, does all this have to do with social distancing? Well, the establishment of the fan within Western culture created a new social intercourse that could be discreetly bandied about between the sexes. The fan, sometimes referred to as handscreens, were deemed necessary additions to a proper young ladies' wardrobe and served to protect her delicate complexion from the heat of the fireside, or particularly in the South, from the simple heat of the day. But the fan became something more, a tool in communicating sentiments and interests, especially in a mischievous flirtatious manner.

A young lady was never supposed to brazenly introduce herself to a young gentleman. She first had to wait to be introduced by an acquaintance or family member. So, how could she meet a gentleman

that she was interested in without being properly introduced? If a young lady wanted to catch the fancy of a young gentleman from across the room, she couldn't just yell out, "Hey, yo!" Instead she had to send the young man subtle messages, like getting his attention and then touching the tip of the fan with her finger. This meant, "I wish to speak to you."

The language of the fan became a common mode of communicating between the sexes. Books were published instructing young ladies in the art of conveying their intentions to a young gentleman simply by the actions of her fan.

So popular and widespread did the language of fans develop that by the nineteenth century an Academy operated in London for the sole purpose of training young women in the exercise of the use of a fan, much like a military bootcamp. First, a young lady was taught how to "prepare her fan" by placing it between two fingers "in a graceful and dignified manner." Next, she needed to learn how to "unfurl her fan," by opening it in stages. Then, young ladies were taught to "discharge her fan" by opening it all at once (and in so doing, she was to make light rustling noise to attract the young man's attention, especially if he had been neglecting her). The young lady was instructed in how to "ground her fan," setting it down on a table or mantel so that she might adjust her hair and entice the young man with a view of her slender arm and fingers. Finally, she learned to "recover her fan" by opening it and fluttering it all her feminine wilds until she caught the attention of the next recipient of her affections.

Young gentlemen were taught how to read the language as well. Joseph Addison wrote in his daily English publication, *Spectator* in July 1711: "There is an infinite variety of motion to be made use of in the flutter of a fan. There is the angry Flutter, the modest Flutter, the timorous Flutter, the confused Flutter, the merry Flutter, the amorous Flutter. Not to be tedious, there is scarce any emotion of the Mind which does not produce a similar agitation of the Fan; inasmuch if I only see the Fan of a disciplined Lady I know very well if she laughs, frowns or blushes."

In the hands of an expert young lady thoroughly trained in the



Mary Ann's fan

language of a fan, an entire conversation could be carried out from across the room. Aside from the basics, her vocabulary was increased to include additional phrases to better arm herself when advancing into the battle of courtship. A few in her needed ammunition included:

Fanning slowly: I'm married.
 Fanning quickly: I'm engaged.
 Resting the fan on your right cheek: Yes
 Resting the fan on your left cheek: No
 Peering over an open, rapidly fluttering fan: I would like to meet you.
 Carrying the fan, open in the left hand: Come and talk to me.
 Resting the closed fan on the right eye: When may I be allowed to see you?
 Twirling the fan in your left hand: We are watched!
 Placing the open fan across the heart: You have won my love.
 Carrying the fan in your right hand in front of your face: Follow me.
 Covering the left ear with the open fan: Do not betray our secret.
 Opening and shutting the fan rapidly: You are cruel.
 Touching the tip of the fan with your finger: I wish to speak to you.
 Drawing the fan through your left hand: I hate you!
 Drawing the fan across your eyes: I'm sorry.
 Drawing the fan across the cheek: I love you!
 Shutting the fully open fan very slowly: I promise to marry you.
 Pressing the half-opened fan to the lips: You may kiss me.
 Placing the handle to the lips: Kiss me.

The fan we have in our collection is one of two known fans belonging to Mary Ann Cobb, wife of Howell. Since Howell was a politician and often entertained, Mary Ann hosted numerous dinners and parties. Her one consistent accoutrement for the event would have been a fan. Our fan is made of ivory and silk, is of a higher quality than most fans of the day, one expected for that of the wife of a governor or secretary.

Our conservator with Jones Abbe Art Conservation worked painstakingly for months repairing the more than thirty tears in both the front and back silk layers, as well as very carefully cleaning, under low suction with a filter, to remove the loose dust and soiling to revive the fan's luster. The fan was then pressure framed and is on display in the T.R.R. Cobb House.

This fan would have been the envy of most women in the room at whatever social function attended by Mary Ann, and in the hands of an experienced, independent veteran such as herself, we're sure she gave credence to the saying of the time: "Women are armed with fans as men with swords — and sometimes do more executions with them."



This is an unidentified young lady in a Cobb photograph album



MUSEUMS INNOVATE IN A PANDEMIC



Sticks & Stones

BY MICHELLE ZUPAN

Like everyone, the staff of Hickory Hill is navigating a new normal. On March 6, our very active field trip programs came to a screeching halt as schools in our area suddenly closed up shop and went home. Normally in the months of March through May, the Foundation and Hickory Hill grounds are running amok two to three days each week with McDuffie County students, 500 to 600 kiddos exploring nature and learning about history. We found ourselves with an empty spring and missing “our kids.”

Every museum around the nation is in the same predicament, with the added concern of lost revenue putting them on precarious financial footing. Historic houses are in the most challenging position because of their unique nature. Visitors cite the proximity to the past and its people as the reason they visit historic sites. Historic houses have historic doorknobs, wall fabrics and papers, old wooden handrails, and, often, real or reproduction objects are passed around or available for handling. Absolutely none of those pieces that make history come alive can be properly disinfected using CDC-approved chemicals. Imagine the finish on the lovely Rococo Revival chair in Hickory Hill’s Music

Room being subjected to a bleach cleaner after a visitor traced his finger along the carving! The only method we could use to disinfect the chair is soap and water. Again, less than ideal for historic wood.

We are becoming quite creative about remaining engaged with our audiences during this unexpected break in activity. Social media and video conferencing are wonderful tools to connect with teachers and students. Immediately, we began posting online lessons and resources on the Hickory Hill Facebook and Twitter pages, hoping that these would be useful to parents now schooling their children at home and teachers learning to educate remotely. These resources included: Library of Congress primary source materials, lesson plans from the Georgia Historical Society and the Weather Channel, virtual tours of museums around the globe, live animal cams, and much more.

Being history minded, we also sought to give perspective on pandemics in history. The Watson family experienced the 1918 to 1919 influenza pandemic. On February 27, 1919, Mrs. Georgia Watson wrote to her husband:

I am feeling real well but to my surprise the Dr says I must keep in bed a day or two yet, the diabetes condition makes it hard for me to resist other things and while I have the very slightest temperature it must not be allowed to increase....

Mrs. Watson was very fortunate to have survived a pandemic that killed between 20 million and 40 million people worldwide.

Our Educator, Franke Smith, has been posting fun updates for kids onto the Facebook page. Three dinosaurs, Aster, Roy, and Dee, tour Hickory Hill by themselves since it is closed and they can sneak in. It is an intentional silly divergence from the standard fare posted by museums showing an artifact or a pretty flower. We have also hosted video conference activities and tours with our local elementary school. Underway are enhancements to the Hickory Hill listing on the Clio site (theclio.com) that helps people find, and virtually visit, historic places near their location.

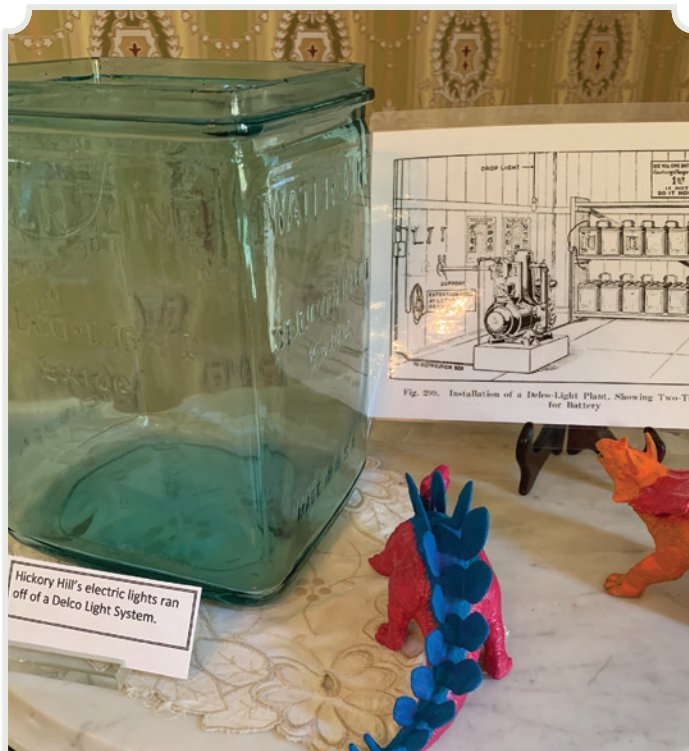
What is the future of museums in the age of pandemic? I wish I knew. What I do know is that we are looking forward to summer camps and fall field trips! Stay tuned!



Carrara marble mantle, Hickory Hill study



Rococo Revival chair, c.1880



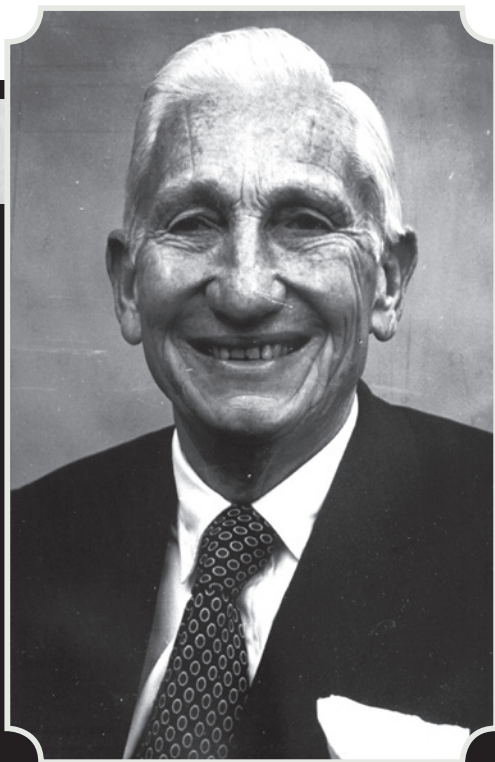
The Big Adventure of Aster, Roy, and Dee



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OUR FOUNDER

Walter J. Brown was a journalist and a broadcast pioneer who built and chaired what would become Spartan Communications, Inc., one of the larger privately held TV companies in the country.

Early in his career, Brown had an office in the White House when he served on the staff of Secretary of State James F. Byrnes. Brown's enduring love for politics was eclipsed only by his respect for Jimmy Byrnes. Inspired in part by Byrnes's philanthropy—which in 1948 established the James F. Byrnes Foundation—Brown created his own private Foundation in 1970. Named for Thomas E. Watson and J.J. Brown, the men to whom Brown attributed his success, the Watson-Brown Foundation today continues to ensure that hundreds of deserving students are provided the opportunity to excel at the college of their choice.