

Drayton Hall Stories:

A PLACE AND ITS PEOPLE



George W. McDaniel

Thanks to SC Archives and History Foundation

- Eric Emerson
- Elizabeth Johnson
- Donna Foster
- Ben Hornsby
- Others

About Me?

- Historian. Love classroom but made a career of museums and historic preservation
- Native of Atlanta
- U.S. Peace Corps in Africa but drafted and served in infantry with First Infantry Division, Vietnam, 1969-70
- Worked with Smithsonian and Maryland Historical Trust, which introduced me to museums and historic preservation
- Was director of Drayton Hall for 25 years, 1989-2015

Why This Title: *Drayton Hall Stories: A Place and Its People*

- What is historic preservation?
 - Place and people
 - Recent history too
- Too often, only the place, the materials are accented to the neglect of the people, but both were intertwined.
- Historic Preservation: Can serve as gathering point for people of different races, genders, ages by using a place as a focal point.
- You can use *Drayton Hall Stories* as a prompt or model for using a historic place

Historic Preservation

- Not only about the past
- Both the past and the future
- What kind of future do we want?

Why This Title?

- Preservation of a historic place can be either divisive or unifying.
- Our choice: Not “either/or” but “both/and”
- Polarity thinking; polarity management
- Tell a complete story, not because it’s politically correct, but because it’s history
- Preservation: Not only its past, but also its future. What is its future?
- Involve people in answering that question

Who Cares about Historic Preservation? People You Know: All Types of People.

- Book: one place but many people caring about it:
- 50+ Interviews:
Descendants: Draytons and African Americans
- *Board members, staff, donors*
- *Historians, curators*
- *Architects, preservationists*
- *Tour guides, tourism leaders*
- Like a mosaic that fits together to create a picture



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Recent History: Why Preserve?

- Tony Wood, preservationist: “When recent history is lost, we lose the history of preservation and the story of those people.
- *Example: Drayton Hall as a club house for golf course.*
- Charles Lee, director of SC Archives and History, and Fred Brinkman, assistant director of SC Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, played leading roles in Drayton Hall’s preservation.
- Story in print for first time: Thanks to Peter McGee

Peter and Patti McGee re Frances Edmunds, Historic Charleston Foundation. Interview: "A Two-Word Answer."
One Individual Makes a Difference.

- Peter, Patti McGee



- Pic with Frances, Hollings



Why Were Women So Involved in Historic Preservation, Especially in Its Early Days?

- Patti McGee: p. 93.

What was being preserved? What did they see and appreciate?

- Architect Jim Thomas



- Architect Glenn Keyes



Oldest unrestored plantation house in America that's open to public.



Masterpiece of Colonial American Architecture. Balance, Symmetry, Harmony



Same Historic Building: Different Points of View



- Architectural Symmetry of House
- And
- Imbalance of Power
- and
- Who Did the Work?

Villa Cornaro – inspiration for
Drayton Hall. Andrea Palladio, Italian
Renaissance architect, 1508-1580



First Fully Executed Palladian Building in America;



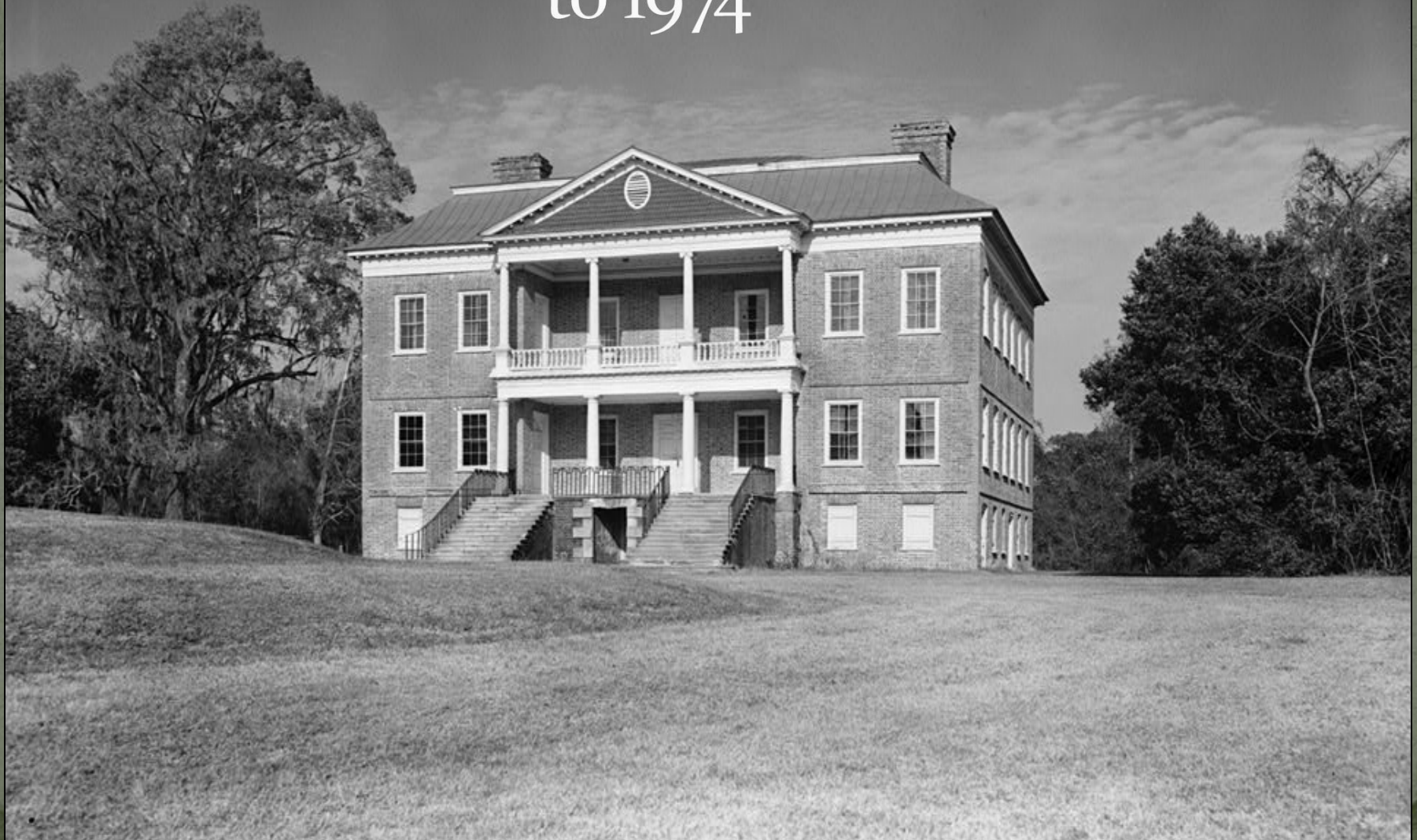
Drayton Hall S.C.

Drayton Hall, 1765
Pierre Eugene du Simitiere



Drayton Hall c. 1880

Seven Succeeding Generations
of Drayton Ownership and Stewardship
to 1974



What did they help preserve? Portico Is An Example. We must preserve the place. Trish Smith's Thoughts, Later.



Award for Preservation from Gov. McMaster to Craig Bennett, Richard Marks, Patrica Smith (Drayton Hall)



Research Surprise: Susan Buck, Paint Conservator. What Do You See about Its Original Appearance? Paint?

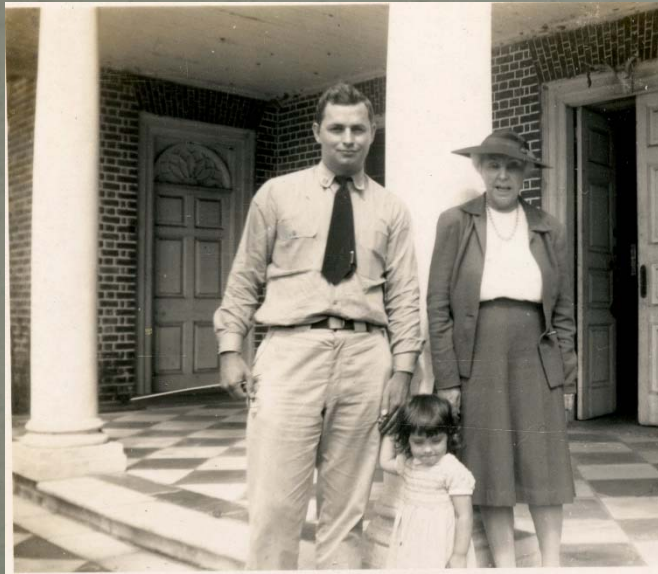


- Cream-colored walls
- Mahogany balustrade and brackets painted orangy-Chinese red.
- Never seen an interior in America or England with color scheme.



Before Being Preserved as a Site, Drayton Hall Was a Home and Lived in.

- Charlie Drayton, p.13-14; Molly, pp. 20, 24;
- Anne Drayton Nelson, p. 16, 17.



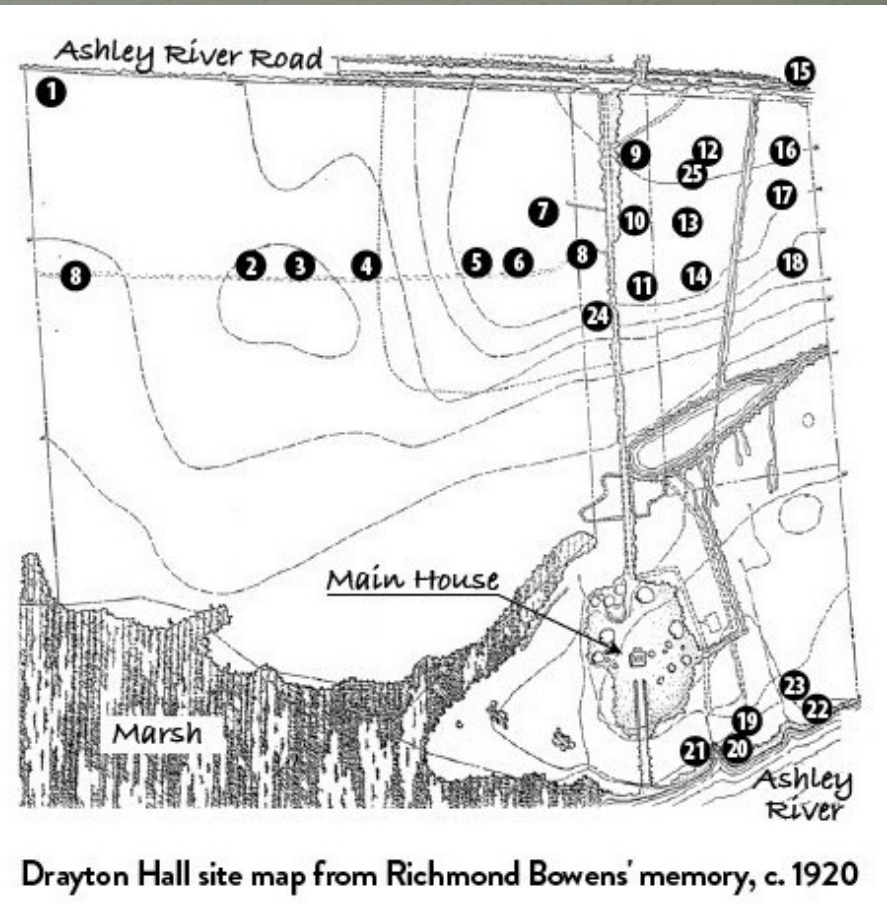
Richmond Bowens, 1908- 1999. Drayton Hall As Home:
Kin. Born at Drayton Hall. His ancestors were here. His
father, born here. Grew up with Charlie Drayton.



Why Home? Memory Map in *Drayton Hall Stories*. Recent History Your Site or Place?

Drayton Hall site map from Richmond Bowens' memory, c. 1920

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Store & house* | 10 Bowens house* | 19 Barn |
| 2 Dennis house | 11 McKeever house* | 20 Blacksmith shop* |
| 3 Washington house | 12 Uncle Sammy's house* | 21 Orangerie |
| 4 Nanny Notes house* | 13 Smalls house* | 22 Store* |
| 5 Roberts/McKeever house #2 | 14 (Former house)* | 23 Storekeeper's house |
| 6 Johnson house* | 15 Store & house* | 24 Spring site |
| 7 Graveyard | 16 Hallman house* | 25 Old well (open) |
| 8 MacBeth Road | 17 Hazel house* | * No trace remains |
| 9 (Former house)* | 18 (Former house)* | |



Drayton Hall Intentionally Used Cemetery As An Oral History Resource and a Gathering Place for Both Races.
What Could Be Yours? Avoid Montpelier Situation.
Have a More Complete Vision of History and the Place.



Recent History: Bob Barker and Nancy Huggins, “Those Early Days.” Interpreters at Drayton Hall, p. 154.



Jenny Sanford McKay, Former Board Member, “Integrity. Respect.” pp. 134, 136

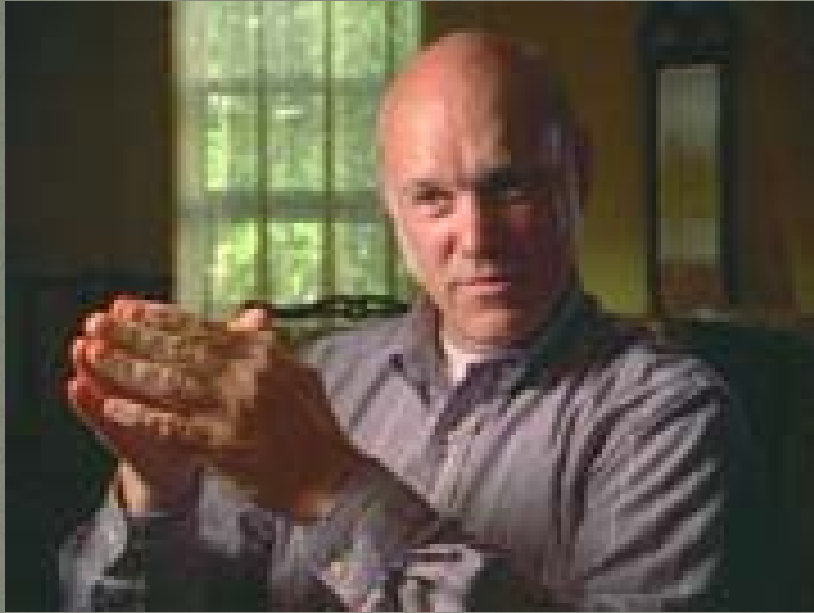


Richard Marks, Contractor: “A Time Machine”

- How do you read Drayton Hall as a Contractor?
- P. 217



Peter Wood, Historian, “To Think and Imagine Differently”, p. 267.
Catherine Braxton and Rebecca Campbell



Tony Wood, Board Member, Donor: "Transformative."
p. 138



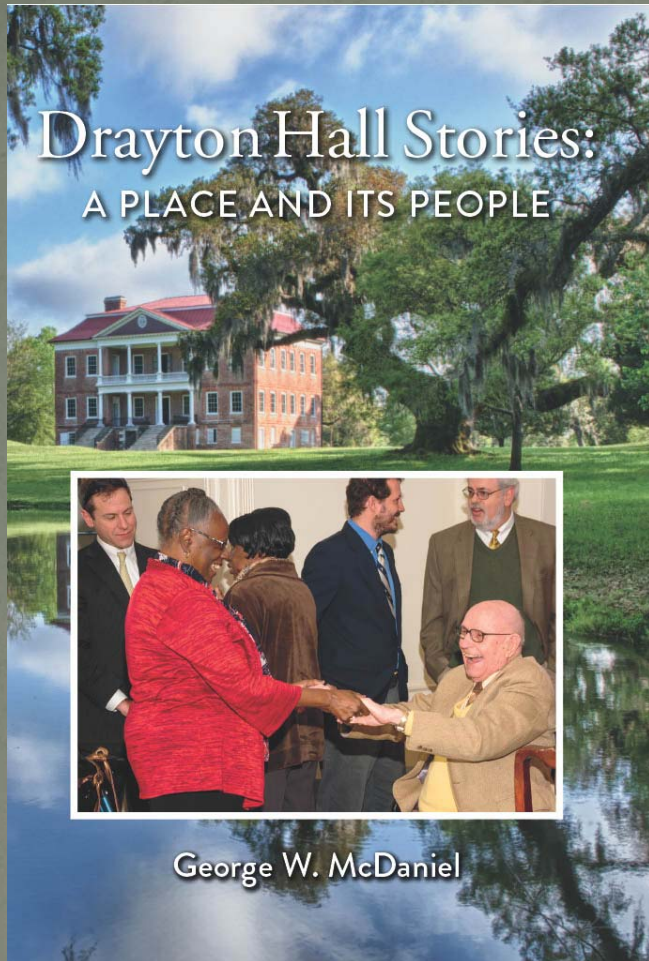
Lonnie Bunch, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution,
“The Sunshine of Remembering,” p. 148



Eric Emerson

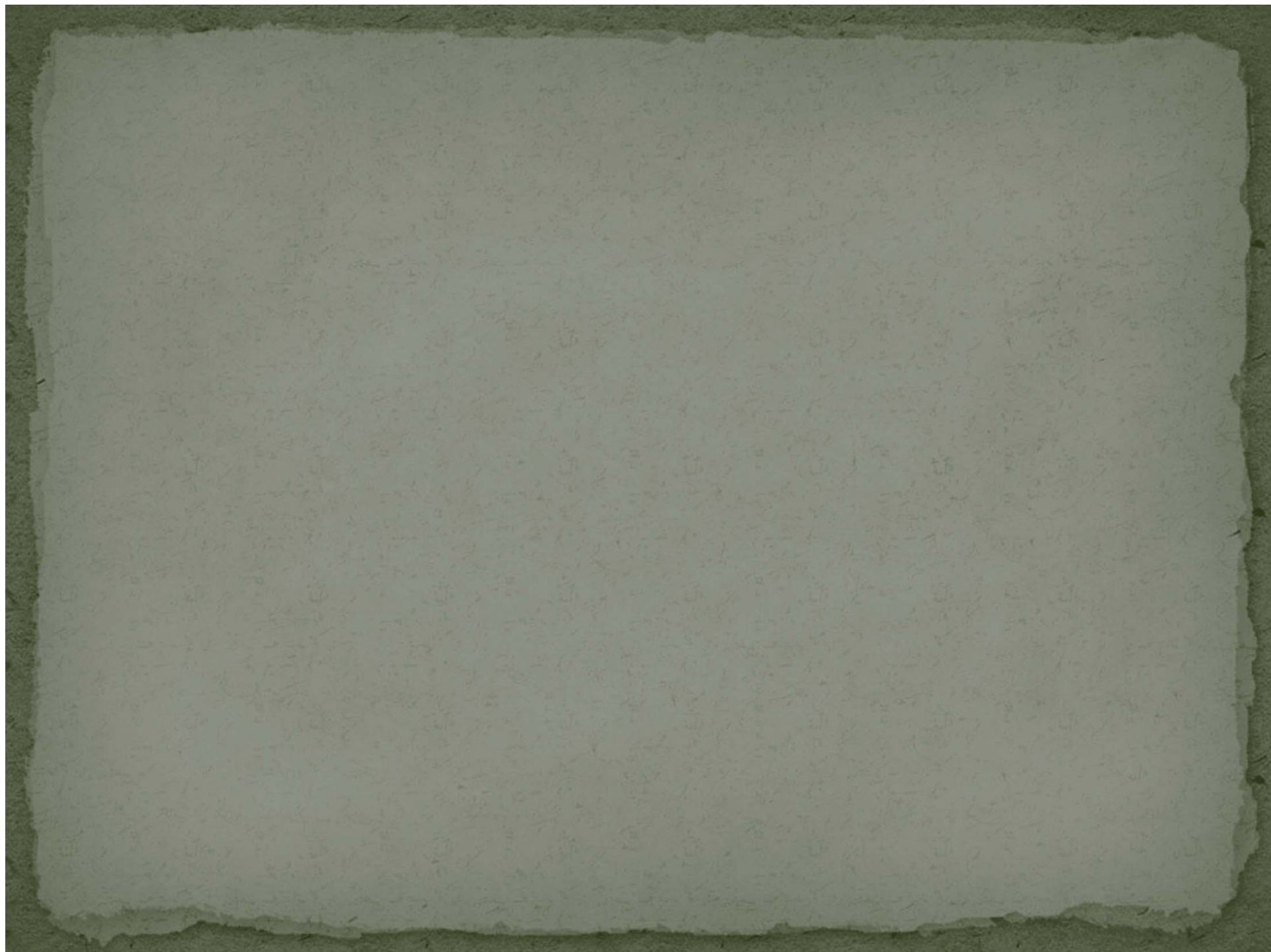


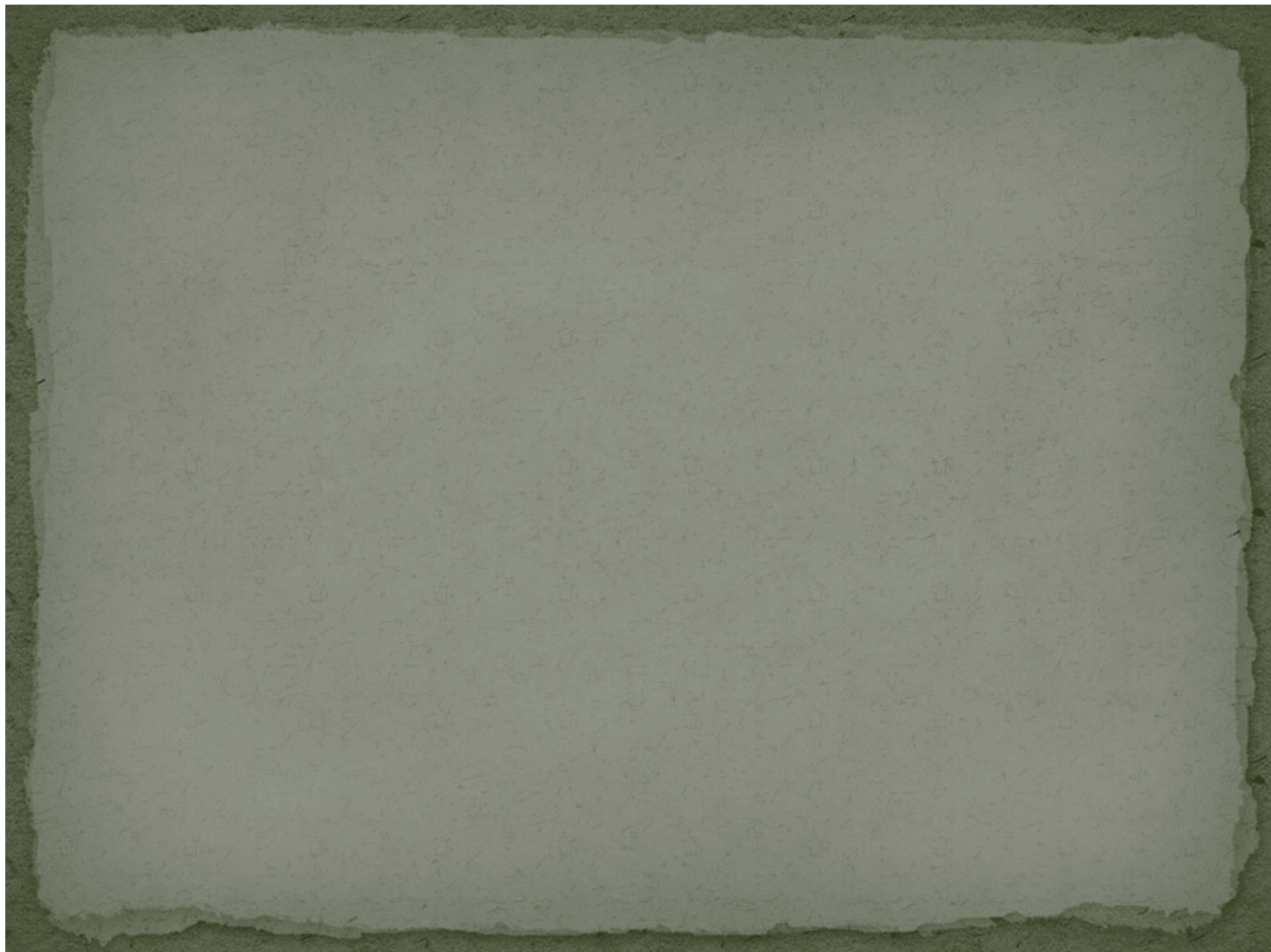
- From his interview in *Drayton Hall Stories*:
 - 1. From your experience in the state and nation, what do you see as the two or three biggest challenges or opportunities in historic preservation?
 - 2. Why are historic sites like Drayton Hall important to the state and their community?



- For you
- Connect place and people
- Use a place in your community
- Use my book as a model, a prompt, and a guide
- Evening Post Books, due out April 28
- Help. Be glad to speak, do workshops. In Charleston, Summerville, Atlanta,, Washington DC (Colonial Dames)
- Let's get this approach used

Questions and Discussion



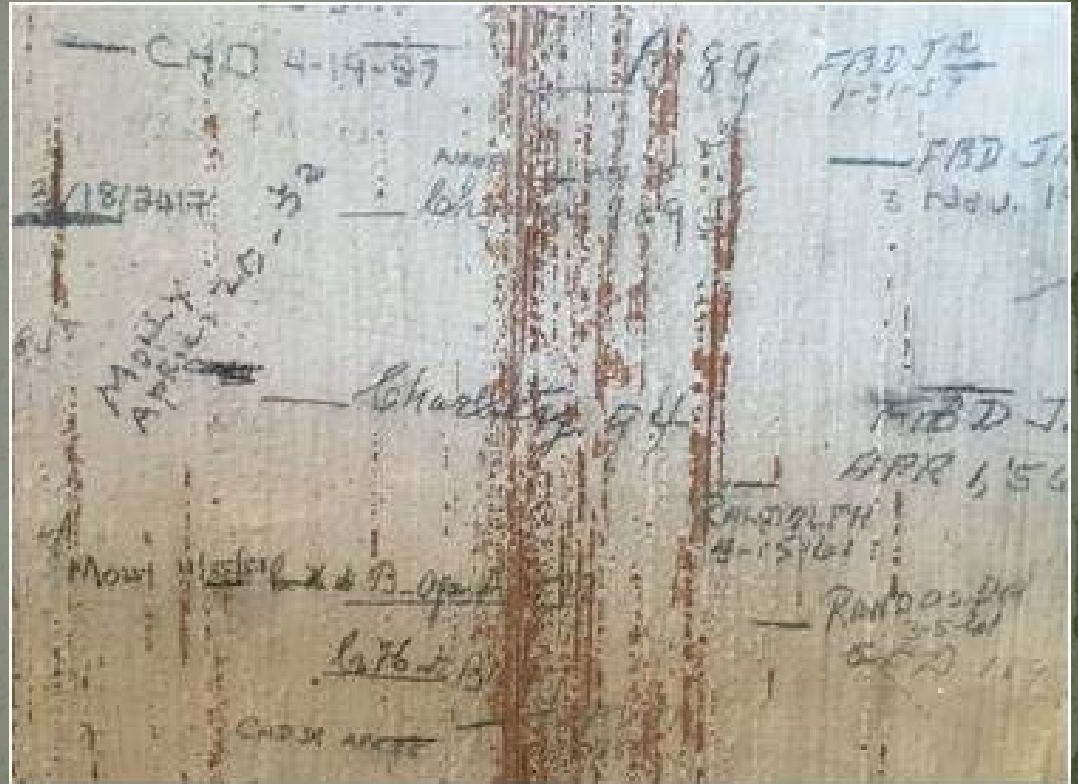
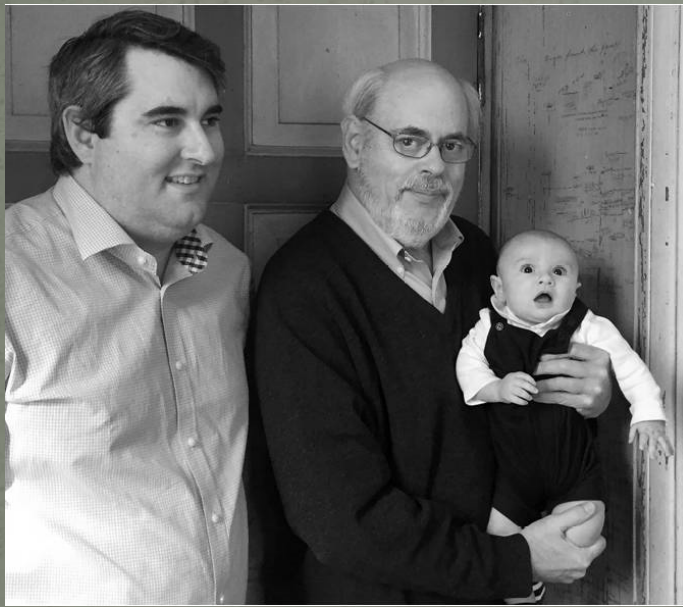


Richard Marks, Contractor: “A Time Machine”

- How do you read Drayton Hall as a Contractor?
- P. 217



Frank Drayton, son of Frank Drayton, Charlie's Brother at Family Growth Chart with His Son and Grandson, Being Measured. Memory of His Birthday Party and Jets.



Carter Hudgins, Current Director of Drayton Hall, “A National, Indeed an International Treasure,” p. 164



Recent History: Annie Meyers, niece of Richmond Bowens, and Lucille Blunt, Meyers, resident, 1950s, and Lucille's granddaughter , Pp. 34,36; 42



Michelle McCollum, Director, SC Heritage Corridor, “A Compelling Story Is Not Enough.” Engage community.
p. 283



- Message for towns, museums, sites, and places of interest
- SC Heritage Corridor: From Greenville and Anderson
- To Aiken and Orangeburg
- To Charleston

Eric Emerson, “There Have To Be Tangible Examples of Our Past.” p. 257-261.

- What are key lessons you’ve learned about historic sites?
- What roles do historic sites play in the future of history education?
- What are biggest challenges or opportunities in historic preservation?
- What are your closing thoughts about historic sites and historic preservation? Why care?

Patricia Lowe Smith, Curator of Historic Architectural Resources at Drayton Hall

- **B.A. in Art History from the University of South Carolina Honors College**
- **M.S. from the Clemson University and the College of Charleston joint graduate program in Historic Preservation.**
- **Featured in my book, *Drayton Hall Stories: A Place and Its People***

Patricia Lowe Smith

- “Being the Best Steward I Can Possibly Be”
- Why is that important?

Patricia Lowe Smith

- What are your favorite places at Drayton Hall?

Patricia Lowe Smith

- What is the difference between measuring by hand as opposed to using a digital scanner?

Patricia Lowe Smith

- If specific places, structures, or objects at Drayton Hall could speak, which ones would you select? What questions would you ask?

Patricia Lowe Smith

- Of the many research and preservation projects at Drayton Hall you've been involved in, which one(s) have meant the most to you?

Patricia Lowe Smith

- Since today's iPhones, audio tours, or computerized recreations will be old-fashioned decades from now, what ways of engaging people might you envision?

Patricia Lowe Smith

- Why care about historic sites like Drayton Hall or others in South Carolina?