



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2016

THE BONAVENTURE BULLETIN

BONAVENTURE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The *Bonaventure Bulletin* is a publication of the Bonaventure Historical Society (BHS). Established in 1994, BHS is a nonprofit 501 (c) 3 organization dedicated to the restoration and preservation of Bonaventure Cemetery in Savannah, Georgia.

To schedule a guided tour of the Cemetery or to join BHS, please visit our website at [www.bonaventurehistorical.org](http://www.bonaventurehistorical.org).

BHS memberships, starting at only \$20 per year, make thoughtful and unique gifts for birthdays, anniversaries and other special occasions.

**BHS Board of Directors**

- Lee Maltenfort, Chairman
- James Osborne, Vice Chairman
- Carrie Traeger, Treasurer
- Allen Blount, Membership
- Elizabeth Ford, Secretary
- Celeste Gish, Newsletter Editor

For more information, call 912.412.4687, visit our website at [www.bonaventurehistorical.org](http://www.bonaventurehistorical.org) or friend us on Facebook.

**Buried in Bonaventure, honored at St. John's Episcopal**

Famous for its melodious chimes and magnificent stained-glass windows, Saint John's Episcopal Church on Madison Square is one of Savannah's treasures. The original church, consecrated in May 1853, was designed by Buffalo, NY, architect Calvin Otis (1814—1883) in the Gothic revival style. The parish was formed in 1841 from the growing Christ Church congregation as part of a plan to increase Episcopal presence in Georgia and provide for an Episcopal bishop. Stephen Elliott, Jr., the first Bishop of Savannah, served as rector of both St. John's and Christ Church and preached against secession to no avail. Bishop Elliott died on December 21, 1866, and is buried at Laurel Grove Cemetery in Savannah.



*Above: St. John's Episcopal Church.  
Bottom: Detail of lower sash of Strachan window depicting the Good Shepherd.*

In 1854, Joseph Story Fay, a Boston native and one of St. John's founders, presented the first set of eight bells, cast by A. Meneely's Sons Foundry of Watervliet, NY, a town eventually absorbed by Troy, NY. Over the years, parishioners have donated additional bells, a control panel and funds to have the bells recast. Today, there is a carillon of 43 bells in all, weighing over five tons altogether, suspended in the tower by a frame of hand-hewn oak beams.

The vivid, jewel-toned windows lining the walls of the main church depict 12 vignettes of Christ's life from the Annunciation to the Ascension. Each window consists of an upper sash representing angelic figures and church emblems, a main sash illustrating the scriptural scene and a lower sash bearing the memorial inscription.



The five largest windows on each side closest to the altar comprise the original series of ten installed in 1886. They were designed and fabricated by A. L. Moore & Company, of Liverpool, headed by Arthur Louis Moore (1849—1939), renowned for his artistry in ecclesiastical stained glass. His son, Charles Eustace Moore (1880—1956), joined the firm in 1896 when it became A. L. Moore and Son. Over the course of their careers, the

**CONTINUED INSIDE**

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK...

Recent BHS preservation efforts focus on two historically significant sites: the grave of Confederate General Robert Anderson in Section F-12 and the Tattnall plot in E-2. Both are featured on our guided tours and in our mobile tour app.

In September, volunteers led by cemetery conservators Sam Beetler and Candace Leite used the Anderson bust to demonstrate cleaning and restoring the patina on bronze statuary. Thanks to those efforts, General Anderson's complexion no longer resembles that of the Statue of Liberty.

On October 18, Sam will lead a demonstration of the use of D/2 Biologic Solution,<sup>™</sup> a chemical developed to clean marble with minimal damage to historic monuments. This event will also take place at the Tattnall plot and is open to volunteers. On the same day, Doug Webb and his team of gardening aficionados will assess opportunities for improving the camellia display there. Another group of volunteers will be weeding and tidying the Tattnall plot.

Sam and Candace will also be working with Chaklit ali-Redwood, a Savannah Technical College preservation graduate who has previously worked with BHS, to train two interns in monument preservation.

As always, we are deeply grateful to City of Savannah Department of Cemeteries staff and all our volunteers, whether they provide hands-on or financial assistance.

*Lee Maltenfort, Chairman  
Bonaventure Historical Society*

Moore's produced over 1,000 windows in the UK and 100 in the US and Canada. The business continued until 1952, even surviving bombing in 1940.

Two additional windows, made by Franz Mayer & Company of Munich, were added to St. John's nave in 1938, and three more windows were mounted at the rear of the church in 1952.

#### The Bonaventure connection

Joseph Battersby Duckworth (1847—1912), a prominent Savannah businessman, was treasurer of St. John's memorial window committee and may have had a say in selecting A. L. Moore & Company. Born in Cheshire, England, he was a third-generation cotton merchant with companies in Liverpool, Manchester and Savannah. According to church records, his business advanced payment for the windows to spare parishioners the expense of paying in advance. The windows were ordered before the Civil War but not installed until 1886, presumably after Savannahians had begun to recover from the devastation of war.

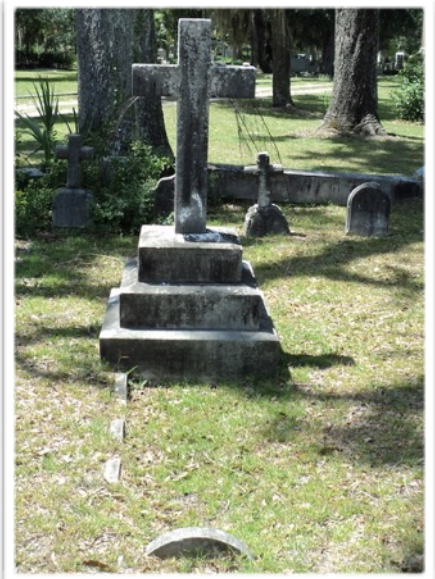
The window commissioned by Duckworth is one of the original series and depicts the flight of the holy family from Egypt. It honors his first wife, Mary Hartridge Battersby Duckworth (1852—1888), and their five deceased children: William Battersby (1880—1880); Francis Battersby (1883—1883); Joseph Battersby (1873—1874); Helen Battersby (1887—1887); and an infant moved from Laurel Grove in 1880. The family, with the exception of Joseph senior rests together in Bonaventure F-15. The father is not buried anywhere in Savannah and may have returned to England at some point.

In addition to his career in the cotton trade, Joseph Duckworth led an active social and public life, serving as High Sheriff of Cheshire and President of the Savannah Cotton Exchange, among other offices.

#### Kissing cousins

Mary Duckworth, daughter of William Battersby and Sarah Emmeline Hartridge Battersby, and her husband, Joseph Battersby Duckworth, son of Nicholas Duckworth and Lucinda Eyes, were both born in Cheshire, England, and were probably cousins. Evidence suggests that they were married in England and at least one of their children was born there in 1873. The same child was buried in Savannah in 1874.

In 1839, 30-year-old Charles Darwin, the grandchild of first cousins, married his first cousin, Emma Wedgwood, his mother's brother's daughter. Ten Darwin children were born during the course of the marriage, and nine survived to adulthood, but illness prevailed throughout the family. Some experts attribute the chronic poor health of the Wedgwood clan to a long-



*The large cross in the foreground marks the grave of Mary Duckworth. Behind it, the four graves of the named children and in front, the barely visible remains of the submerged stone marking the resting place of the "infant" Duckworth.*





standing preference for marrying cousins.

However, it wasn't until the 1860s that the risks of cousin unions became a subject of scientific discussion.

Other early St. John's parishioners who com-

mitted windows are also buried in Bonaventure, including the Cann, Padelford, Tison and Strachan families.

#### **Padelford honored**

Also part of the original series, a window illustrating Christ's resurrection honors Edward Padelford (1799—1870), civic leader and illustrious shipping, banking, insurance and railroad tycoon. It was donated by his daughter, Mrs. Marion Foster. Padelford is buried in Bonaventure's Section D along with his wife, Elizabeth Louisa Farnum Padelford (1803—1869); infant daughters Mary Eliza (1824—1825) and Elizabeth (1826—1826); adult sons George (1835—1861) Edward, Jr. (1831—1863); and an adult daughter, Caroline (1828—1858).

#### **Annunciation joins the series**

Although not part of the original series, a window portraying the Annunciation was donated and placed in 1938, honoring Annie Goodwin Stubbs Cann, by her husband, George Turner Cann (1866—1937). This window, crafted by Franz Mayer & Company of Munich, complements and is directly across from a portrayal of "Go ye therefore and teach all nations," in honor of George Turner Cann. Both Canns are buried in Bonaventure F-27. Interestingly, Annie's first husband, Charles F. Stubbs (1830—1882), is buried in the same lot.

#### **Tisons commemorated**

The sixth window along the south wall, illustrating the miracle at Cana in Galilee, was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Scotia Tison in memory of Mary Scotia Tison (1834—1876) and William H. Tison (1812—1877), a St. John's vestryman who perished from yellow fever. Mary Scotia and William H. Tison rest together in Bonaventure A-209.

#### **Good Shepherd added in 1952**

The Strachan window, depicting the Good Shepherd from the Gospel according to John, was installed in the 20th century. It memorializes Harry Garden Strachan (1876—1951) and his wife, Anna Martina Roberts Strachan (1878—1947). The couple is interred together in Bonaventure B-4, along with their son, Henry Garden Strong, Jr. (1915—1941), a lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Corps, and grandson Henry Garden Strong, II (1938—1959), who died in an automobile crash.

Their patriarch, Francis Garden Strachan (1841—1902), was born in Gamrie, Scotland, and immigrated to Savannah in 1886 to establish a trading company. His son, Henry, to whom the stained-glass window is dedicated, was vice president of the Strachan Shipping Center as well as an avid boater and volunteer with the National Council of Boy Scouts.

#### **IN MEMORIAM**

BHS volunteer and master gardener Dennis Ronning (1942-2016) will be remembered for his dedication to revitalizing the gardens of Bonaventure.

"For five years, Dennis was involved in all aspects of our camellia care including air-layering the old camellias" said BHS Board Member and master gardener Doug Webb. "He found us several sites where we could dig up heirloom plants for Bonaventure. Everyone on the gardening team enjoyed his wry sense of humor."

Dennis was an accountant and graduate of the University of South Dakota. He served in Vietnam where he met his wife, Patty. The couple moved to Savannah in 1973. He is interred in the Greenwich Cemetery Columbarium.



Bonaventure Historical Society  
P.O. Box 5954  
Savannah, GA 31414

## Save the date!

**BHS Annual Dinner Meeting**  
**November 3, 2016**

Knights of Columbus #5588  
700 Christopher Drive  
Savannah, GA.

### Sources for feature article:

Linton Weeks, *St. John's Church in Savannah*, c. 1985.  
Bonaventure Historical Society, *Bonaventure Cemetery Index Sections A – H*, n.d. Lucian Lamar Knight, *Standard History of Georgia and Georgians*, Vol. 6, c. 1917. Preston Russell & Barbara Hines, *Savannah: a history of her people since 1733*, c. 1992. [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com); [geni.com](http://geni.com); [oxfordjournals.org](http://oxfordjournals.org); [newhumanist.org.uk](http://newhumanist.org.uk); [vam.ac.uk](http://vam.ac.uk); [victorianweb.org](http://victorianweb.org)

## Volunteer profile: Don Teuton

BHS board member, tour guide, photographer and Savannah native "Bonaventure Don," aka Don Teuton, has been a Bonaventure enthusiast for as long as he can remember.

"I started coming to the cemetery as a child with my parents to visit family graves," says Teuton, a 1978 graduate of Johnson High School in Savannah. "My parents, grandparents, great-grandparents and some assorted family riffraff we don't like to talk about are all buried here. I'll probably end up in Section K with a waterfront view."

Before retiring to conduct "name-your-own-price" tours of Bonaventure, Teuton worked in the biomedical department of Candler Hospital for nine years. In 1989, he founded Savannah Medical Services, a company that repaired laboratory equipment, ophthalmic lasers and other medical instruments.

*Creative Loafing* named Teuton Best Local Author of 2001 for his book, *The Bar Review*, a comprehensive guide to Chatham County's taverns, cocktail lounges, roadhouses, bars, bodegas and other watering holes.

Teuton is married to the former Marian Cafiero, a Thunderbolt native and head of customer service for Georgia Power Company's Savannah region. The couple have two children: Patrick, attending Boston University Medical School, and Caitlin, a senior at the University of Georgia.



