

GORDONSTON

Gazette



CALLING ALL CITIZEN RESEARCHERS

What do you know about your house? When was it built? Who lived there? Who designed and built it? Do you have historical photos? The newsletter is collecting stories about the homes in Gordonston for the centennial.

Not sure where to start? Try these links:

arts-crafts.com/archive/kithome
antiquehome.org

Do you have a “kit” home? Look for links to vintage Aladdin and Sears home catalogs on gordonston.com.

100 years

Gordonston was founded in 1917, one-hundred years ago. Our amazing neighborhood has been home to generations of wonderful, interesting people across the decades and we want to share your memories. Send in your photos and stories as we celebrate the past 100 years.

Guidelines

So that we can share as many stories as possible, please follow these guidelines for submission:

- Include information such as year built, architectural style, first owner, and home idiosyncrasies.
- Limit to a length of 250 words.
- Include photos, particularly old ones when possible.

Send to:

Meaghan Gerard at info@mwgerard.com or
Kate Marsters at marsters001@gannon.edu.

History of Gordonston

This article originally appeared in *Homes of Distinction*, August 17-30, 2006. Written by Meaghan Walsh

It seems one can't go anywhere in downtown Savannah without tripping over history. The legacies of many nationally-recognized names were influenced by Savannah's unique sensibilities. It is not only the landmark historic district downtown that is tied to early days. Quiet, Eastside neighborhood Gordonston has its own impressive pedigree. One of the first 'trolley suburbs', it was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2001. A trolley line ran through the Gordonston neighborhood on its way to Thunderbolt and Tybee Island.

Its namesake may not be entirely obvious, but once one starts digging, there is a treasure trove of incredible stories about one of Savannah's first families: The Gordons.

William Washington Gordon was born in 1796, and named for Colonel William Washington (nephew of president George Washington), a friend of his father. W.W. Gordon attended military school in Rhode Island, graduated West Point in 1814 and served for a short time in the Army before becoming apprenticed to Judge James Moore Wayne in Savannah. After serving as mayor, cavalry captain, senator and lawyer, Gordon devoted his time to the Central Railroad and Banking Company. Their objective was to maintain Savannah's status as the King of Cotton in the face of Charleston's 136-mile rail line to

Hamburg. Gordon lobbied for financing, supervised construction, negotiated rights-of-way and dealt with labor disputes. His efforts to connect Savannah with the cotton-producing interior of the state were successful but unfortunately Gordon died at the young age of forty-six, about a year before the railway was completed.

His legacy lived on through his four prominent and successful children. Most notable was his son William "Willie" Washington Gordon, II, graduate of Yale University, who married Elenor "Nelly" Lytle Kinzie of Chicago. He served in the Civil and the Spanish-American War. Nelly did not sit at home fanning herself while he was away. Raised in an active home, she grew up editing important Chicago papers and writing novels. During the Spanish-American War, she tended to the sick and wounded soldiers coming in on the trains, on the rails built by her father-in-law. Her selflessness extended to a young soldier who died of typhoid fever. She brought his body to Savannah, had him embalmed and then sent to his family farm in Indiana. No doubt, her daughter was influenced by such acts as a young girl, perhaps the most famous of the Gordon line. Willie and Nelly raised six children in the home on Oglethorpe and Bull. Their second child was Juliette Magill Kinzie Gordon, or Daisy for short.

Headstrong and feisty, she traveled the world and met William Mackay Low, an Englishman. Their marriage was a short and unhappy one and they separated in 1905. Taking after her mother, she was looking for something useful to do when she met Sir Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts, in 1911. The two quickly became friends and Juliette's enthusiasm created a nationwide movement. The Girls Scouts mandate reflects Juliette's own beliefs. She encouraged girls to be self-reliant and prepare for roles in the professional world, not just be homemakers. She also included girls with disabilities, an unusual step at the time, but one important to Juliette because of her own loss of hearing.

In 1917, Juliette and her brother William converted their 80-acre family farm to the subdivision now known as Gordonston. Including Craftsman-style bungalows, and Colonial Revival homes, the area also features the beautiful Pierpont Circle with avenues radiating out and a six-acre park. Gordonston offers living in a friendly community apart from busy downtown.



Juliette Gordon Low, circa 1923. Image is in public domain. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution License.

GORDONSTON BOOK CLUB

December: Holiday social

January: Break

February: *My Life on the Road*, Gloria Steinem

March: Break

April: *Driftless*, David Rhodes

May: *The Handmaid's Tale*, Margaret Atwood

June: Planning meeting



Book club meets on the second Monday of most months. This year's co-chairs are Judi Painter and Peggy Jolley. Contact Peggy at 912-429-2000 for meeting locations or information.

2017 GNA MEMBERSHIP HONOR ROLL

Ben Adams
Debbie Adams & Laura Grifka
Jeff Baker & Kris Rice
Pam and Barrett Benton
Bob and Betty Bess
Brenda & Dee Bowers
AJ & Bonnie Carter
Caitlin Condon
Bradford Christman & Deanne Christman-Resch
Nancy Cunningham
Tommy & Dottie Daniels
Jim & Karen Davis
Carol Davies
Denise Dawson & Erica Cooper
Mark Dennen & Kelly Reed
Betsy & Manny Dominguez
Juliet & John Echenique
Ian & Peggy Elliott
Jeni Ellis-Riggs
Carey and Brendan Ferrara
Kristi Flowery & Jim Sims
Soo, Marc & David Frischer
Krista & Andy Futch
Emily Garrard & Stuart Chatham
Jenny Gentry
Steve & Meaghan Gerard

Stephen S. Gerard
Richard Glendinning
Deborah & Cooper Glenn
Bob & Betty Haldeman
Nancy, Rachel, & Allie Hayward
Nancy & Doug Henrick
John & Linda Herdina
Rusty & Mignon Holt
Peggy Jolley
Jamie & Mary Ann Kavanaugh
Jessica and Joa Kelly
Greg & Nell Keyes
Warren & Danuza Knuth
Charlotte Landon & Robert Trithart
James & Lisa Langley
Darlie Logan
Dot McKay
Kate Marsters
Kisha Marsters, Ava, & Alexis Drebitko
Melissa Mauldin & Tony Migchelbrink
Muriel, Robert & Bernice Miller
Shirley & Roger Munderloh
Fred & Legare Nadelman
Gino Orlandi & Catherine Killingsworth
Judi Painter
Bobby & Sheila Phillips
Don Pomykala

Nancy Poser
Katherine & Olivier Raffray
Beth Reiter
Colleen & Christopher Reynolds
Charles Robertson
Kurt Schmidt & Zrinka Pulisecic
Tom Stephenson
Hilda Sukman & Julie Sukman
Kelly Sullivan
Jack Taylor
Margie Thompson, Kevin Ionno & Dagmawit
Matt Toole
Kay Tucker
Tom Van de Ven
Harald & Donna von Fischer-Benzon
Alfonso Walker
Angela Watkins
Alexis Watts
Daniel & Kristen Weiner
Angela Williams
Jack & Beth Wilson

GNA dues are collected at the beginning of each calendar year.

Don't see your name?

Download the membership form at www.gordonston.com and return with payment to **Kate Marsters, membership coordinator.**



Notes from the City

Willie Mae Knight is the community outreach contact for Gordonston with the City of Savannah. She shared:

Crisis Cleanup Hotline
(hurricane or storm damage)
at 800-451-1954

Medical Needs Registry
(neighbors who are elderly or who may need assistance in hurricanes or other emergencies)
at 912-691-7443.

Knight can be reached at:
912-651-6520 x 8772
or 912-659-5288.



She also attends the GNA meetings.

For property maintenance issues -- such as wildly overgrown grass, accumulations of trash, problems with unoccupied houses, and other urban blight. Call **Matthew Rice** at 912-658-2378.

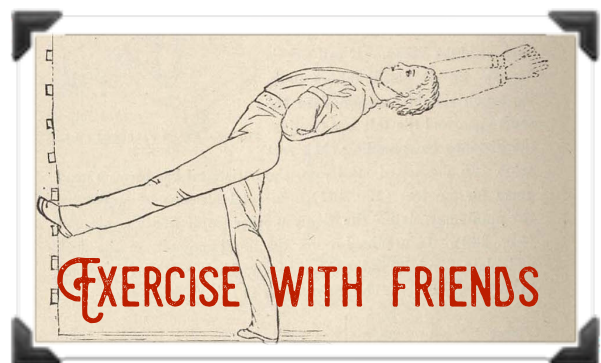


Charlotte Landon's love of history shines through this production of her walking tour of Colonial Cemetery, now available on YouTube as part of the City of Savannah's SGTV's "Hungry for History" series. In addition to her work for the Massie Heritage Center, she has been a docent at Davenport House and led food tours with Savannah Taste Experience.

Watch:

[youtube.com/watch?v=okvH_5wV1H4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=okvH_5wV1H4)

Exercise is more fun with buddies. Want to try pilates? Yoga? Dance a few steps, then stretch, bend, and lift? Basic squats and leg lifts? Dottie Daniels opens the cottage in the park and brings music to get you moving several days a week. Call Dottie at 944-2703 to talk about days, times and your goals.





From Garden Club President, Nancy Henrick:

The Gordonston Garden Club (GCC) has been busy keeping the neighborhood beautiful. It takes care of the Gordonston marker at the Henry Street entrance and does the Christmas decoration on the circle and the park gates. In a

recently completed major project, it funded and arranged for the park entrance gates to be sandblasted and repainted.

As an ongoing project, the GCC keeps track of the historic plan of trees in the park and has charge of the trees and markers for memorial plantings, many of which will have to be replaced after the damages of Hurricane Matthew. Meetings include guest speakers on such topics as composting, beekeeping, and growing and cooking with herbs. In September, Gordonston resident Hilda Kessler, a member of the Georgia Orchid Society, spoke on orchids.

GCC also hosts an on-going series of Movies in the Garden. It shows family-friendly films outdoors, usually in the park, and everyone is welcome to attend. Garden Club meets once every two months, September through May -- (usually) on second Tuesdays. Beginning gardeners and long-term green thumbs are always welcome. Dues are only \$15 per year. Other notes of interest -- often including free plants! -- are posted on the GCC's private Facebook page. Questions? Call Nancy Henrick, 912-777-5590 .

Hearty thanks to the following neighbors...

- **Rusty Holt** for mowing in the park. It looks great! (Reminder: When walking in the park grab branches and debris so he can mow mow easily.
- **Melissa Mauldin and Tony Migchelbrink** for a splendid luau, including leis!
- **Debbie Adams** for donating two new swings for kids to play on in the park.
- **Jack Taylor** for clearing up and replanting the Henry Street marker and median.
- **Kirsten Parent** for arranging the Halloween Hike for neighborhood children.



Thanks to everyone who made Rock 'n' Roll Marathon race day a blast!

**Gordonston Neighborhood Association
Officers & Contacts**

President

Krista Futch kristafutch@gmail.com C: 247-7064

Treasurer

Hilda Kessler hrks1931@outlook.com C: 429-5654

Recording Secretary

Nancy Hayward nhayward@auxmail.iup.edu C: 412-309-0471

GNA Standing Committee Chairs

Membership

Kate Marsters marsters001@gannon.edu P: 232-3963

Park Committee

Matt Toole matttoole@hotmail.com C: 713-5934

Daniel Weiner danieldubya@gmail.com C: 904-0640

Neighborhood Watch

Debbie Adams deborah.adams@sap.com C: 678-427-1434

Cottage Rentals

Kristy Valdez kvaldez@corabettthomas.com C: 944-7141

Social Committee

Melissa Mauldin lyssabug86@hotmail.com C: 412-0057

Youth Activities

Kirsten Parent kirstennola@gmail.com C: 978-846-3052

Newsletter & Flyer Distribution

Reynolds Family chinook178@comcast.net C: 604-1792

Newsletter

Kate Marsters marsters001@gannon.edu P: 232-3963

Meaghan Walsh Gerard info@mwgerard.com C: 655-8104



Affiliated Organizations

Book Club Peggy Jolley C: 429-2000

Gordonston Garden Club Nancy Henrick C: 777-5590

Park Trustee Harald von Fischer-Benzon hvfb@comcast.net P: 234-0818

SCMPD APO Sherif Lockett slockett@savannah.gov 547-5451 or 525-3100 x300

Want to rent the cottage?

Check availability and get more information at
www.gordonston.com.

In Memoriam

Virginia Stanton Eyer, died at home on September 20, at 106 years. A Savannah native, she was involved for many years in Gordonston's garden club and book club. Her good friend Lu Reilly had this story to tell:

"One day, only a few years ago, Virginia's friend Tootie, who was about 20 years younger than Virginia, called me up in a panic; Virginia wasn't answering the phone. I hightailed it over to Virginia's house and rang the bell. No answer. Banged on the door. No answer. Worried about what I might find, I peeked in the windows, only to find Virginia in back, trimming bushes. I said, 'Virginia, Tootie is worried sick! You aren't answering the phone!' Virginia laughed and said, 'Tell that woman to stop worrying me and get a darned life,' and went back to work.'" She was 98 years old at the time.

Angela Floyd Williams died on October 9. She was a native of Savannah and, for much of her life, Gordonston. She attended Bible Baptist Church.

Angela ran Savannah Tours for more than 25 years, and she loved giving historic tours of the city. Sometimes, she used her tour bus to gather up friends to celebrate the season by driving around Gordonston and singing carols.

Many will remember meeting Angela at GNA parties. She always brought her own knife to her favorite GNA event, the annual oyster roast.

Angela is survived by her son, Tommy Jr., who is still in Gordonston, and two sisters.



Annual Holiday Party

Saturday, December 9

5:30 p.m.

Juliette Gordon Low Park

Please bring a side dish.

Free for GNA members. Guests are \$15 / couple.

Neighbors can pay their 2018 dues at the event.

Contact Melissa Maudlin for information at lyssabug86@hotmail.com or 912-412-0057.

Watch www.gordonston.com for updates and announcements.