



1636 Sansom Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

The Victorian Society in America

49th ANNUAL MEETING & TOUR • May 6 -10, 2015

A Southern Sampler:
Beaufort, SC • Savannah, GA
Charleston, SC



Please join us for our visit to these three beautiful and interesting cities:

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

Pre-Conference Tour to Beaufort, SC

Breakfast on your own • Lunch included • 9 a.m. Departure
Drive by coach from Savannah, GA to Beaufort, SC
Walking tour of historic and private homes, with local guides

Beaufort is the **second oldest city in South Carolina**, and is known for its breathtakingly beautiful **natural vistas and impressive architecture** from the Colonial and Antebellum Eras. The town of Beaufort is located on the island of Port Royal and is called the **Queen of the South Carolina Sea Islands** due to its charm, natural beauty, fascinating history and rich and diverse cultural heritage. Luncheon served in a private home, sponsored by the Beaufort County Open Land Trust. Tour the Parish Church of St. Helena, one of the oldest churches in North America. The Commons House of Assembly, under the Lords Proprietors of Carolina, established St. Helena's in 1712 as a colonial parish of the Church of England. Following the American Revolution, St. Helena's became part of the newly formed Protestant Episcopal Church. The present church building, dating to 1724, has been enlarged three times during its history. It appears today as it did in 1842.

OPENING RECEPTION at The Telfair Academy

Wednesday, May 6 • 6:30 p.m.

Designed by British architectural prodigy William Jay in the neoclassical Regency style, the **Telfair Academy** is a former mansion built from 1818-1819 for Alexander Telfair, son of Revolutionary War patriot and Georgia governor Edward Telfair.

- *Hors d'oeuvres and Cash bar*
- *Opening remarks by Tania Sammons, Curator of Owens Thomas House*
- *Tours of the Telfair Academy Museum of Art*

THURSDAY, MAY 7

Savannah, GA

Breakfast on your own • Lunch included • Dinner on your own • Early Evening Legacy Society Reception (location TBA)

8:15 a.m. Departure: Walk from the hotel to the **Isaiah Davenport House** for tours of the house followed by a **talk by Christopher E. Hendricks at the Kennedy Pharmacy**, across the street.

Trolley Tour: two-hour trolley ride giving an overview of Savannah, with one or two stops.

Lunch at Vic's on the River: this fine-dining restaurant in a 19th-century warehouse features classic Southern cooking.

In the afternoon, walk to **tour three historic house museums:**

Owens-Thomas House: Considered by architectural historians to be one of the finest examples of English Regency architecture in America. The house was designed by William Jay (1792-1837), one of the first professionally-trained architects practicing in the United States. The elegant residence was built from 1816-1819 for cotton merchant/banker Richard Richardson and his wife.

Andrew Low House: New York architect John Norris was commissioned to design and construct Andrew Low's house in 1848. Norris came to Savannah to design the Custom House on Bay Street and remained in Savannah to build many desirable residences with the latest in technology and luxury. The Italianate exterior features intricate cast iron railings and side balconies contrasting with the smooth stuccoed brick walls.

Green-Meldrim House: One of the South's finest examples of Gothic Revival architecture and the most expensive 19th century house in Savannah. Constructed for Charles Green, who came to Savannah from England in 1833, the home was designed by New York architect John S. Norris, who also designed the Custom House and several other fine homes. Union General William T. Sherman's army occupied the house in 1865, and now it is St. John's Episcopal Church Parish House.

FRIDAY, MAY 8

Savannah, GA

Breakfast on your own **or** optional Chapters Breakfast at **Savannah Coffee Roasters** • Lunch included • Dinner on your own **or** optional Summer School Alumni Association Annual Meeting & Dinner at a private home
(see registration information elsewhere in this brochure)

or optional participation in the Savannah Preservation Festival

(pre-registration is required – www.myhsf.org. This is an excellent opportunity for you to mingle with preservation-minded locals)

8:45 a.m.: We will start the morning with a talk in the Chippewa Room at the hotel: **Understanding Savannah's Urban Plan and Architectural Traditions:** by **Robin B. Williams, Ph.D.**, Chairman, Department of Architectural History, Savannah College of Art and design

Following the talk, we will depart from the hotel on foot to explore Savannah's famous Squares

The city of Savannah was laid out in 1733 around four open squares, each surrounded by four residential blocks and four civic blocks. The original plan (now known as the Oglethorpe Plan) allowed for growth of the city and thus expansion of the grid; additional squares were added during the 18th and 19th centuries, and by 1851 there were 24 squares in the city.

Congregation Mickve Israel is the only purely Gothic revival synagogue in the United States. Founded by a group of Sephardic Jews who landed in Savannah just a few months after General Oglethorpe, the congregation received a perpetual charter from Governor Edward Telfair in 1790. They represent the third-oldest Jewish congregation in the United States. In 1820, the congregation built the first synagogue in Georgia. The present synagogue, which looks more like a church than a synagogue, was designed by Henry G. Harrison and consecrated in 1878.

Afternoon program: Following lunch we will take a Bus Tour of Historic Savannah College of Art & Design's Buildings

SATURDAY, MAY 9

Savannah, GA

Breakfast on your own • Lunch included
Closing banquet & awards presentation included -cash bar

9 a.m. Departure: Depart from the hotel on foot this morning for a tour of some of the most prestigious private homes around Monterey Square.

Monterey Square was designed in 1847 and was named to commemorate the 1846 Battle of Monterey during the Mexican American War. It was the battle of the Mexican War in which a Savannah unit of the Irish Jasper Greens fought. The square's monument honors Casimir Pulaski, a Polish nobleman who was mortally wounded during the Siege of Savannah while fighting for Americans.

Lunch and Annual Business Meeting at the private Oglethorpe Club

The Oglethorpe Club was organized as a social club on September 18, 1870. The original quarters of the Club were located in the DeRenne Building on the northeast corner of Bull and Broughton Streets. In 1912, the Club purchased its present quarters on Bull and Gaston Streets. Built in 1857 in the Classic Revival style, this house was originally built as a private residence for Edmund Molyneux, British counsel at Savannah. Molyneux lived in this stately home, but it also served as the British Consulate until his return to England in 1863.

Afternoon Tours of Churches in the vicinity, including:

The First Baptist Church of Savannah: Chartered on November 26, 1800, the cornerstone of the present church on Chippewa Square was laid on February 2, 1831, and the building was completed in 1833. This Greek Revival structure is Savannah's oldest standing house of worship.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Savannah: Following her husband, prominent silversmith Moses Eastman's death in 1850, Eliza M. Tuthill Eastman fulfilled his wishes and funded completion of the church building. It was called a "little gem" and "an enduring monument to the generosity of its donors as well as a tasteful ornament to our city."

Cathedral of St. John the Baptist: Immigrants fleeing turmoil in Haiti and France established Savannah's first parish, the Congregation de Saint Jean-Baptiste, near the end of the 18th century. A devastating fire on February 6, 1898, destroyed all of the Cathedral but the outside walls and the two spires. The rebuilding began immediately, and the first mass in the rebuilt cathedral was celebrated on Christmas Eve, 1899.

6:30 p.m. Closing banquet and Awards Presentation in the Harborview Room of the De Soto Hilton Hotel, on the 15th floor overlooking the city.

SUNDAY, MAY 10

Post-Conference Tour to Charleston, SC

Breakfast on your own • Lunch included
Savannah Airport Drop-off

7:45 a.m. Departure: Drive by coach for the 2-hour ride from Savannah to Charleston

Walking tour through historic downtown Charleston. Amongst a backdrop of stately architecture and manicured gardens, we will explore the rich, cultural heritage of one of America's most charming cities. From the Colonial period, through the War Between the States and Reconstruction, to her current renaissance, an incredible timeline of events will come alive on this overview of the city as we walk from the Market, through the old walled city, to the Battery.

Lunch at Magnolias Restaurant in the historic district. Contemporary Southern cooking with accents of the Low Country.

4 p.m. Drop-off at Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport

PLEASE DO NOT BOOK DEPARTURES EARLIER THAN 5 p.m.

Note: We will return to the DeSoto Hilton Hotel after airport drop-off

Alumni Association of The Victorian Society Summer Schools

2015 Annual Meeting & Dinner • Friday, May 8, 2015 • 6 - 9 p.m.

The Alumni Association Annual Meeting & Dinner will be a moveable feast featuring two of Savannah's finest private Victorian homes within walking distance to the Hilton Desoto hotel. Many thanks go to Ron Melander of the VSA Savannah Chapter for making the introductions to our gracious hosts.

Annual Meeting & Dinner • 6 - 8 p.m.

At the 1890 Queen Anne/Eastlake home
of Hugh Golson at 14 West Duffy Street.

Dessert • 8 - 9 p.m.

At The Chestnut House, the home
of Pamela & David Young at 710 Whitaker St.

Alumni Association Member Fee: \$50 • Guest and those who are not members of the Alumni Association Fee: \$60
A limited number of guest and non-member reservations are available. The net proceeds will benefit the Alumni Association's Scholarship Fund.

For further information or to reserve, please contact Nancy Golden at goldendirect@aol.com, or 805-563-2315 in Santa Barbara CA.
Advance Reservations Required. Pay by cash or check at the event.

Annual Meeting Registration Information

Pre-Conference Tour: Wednesday, May 6, 2015

Annual Meeting Package: Wednesday Evening, May 6 through Saturday, May 11, 2015

Post-Conference Tour: Sunday, May 10, 2015

BECAUSE SPACE IS LIMITED WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT ALL MEMBERS WHO PLAN TO ATTEND REGISTER WITH THE SOCIETY AND BOOK THEIR HOTEL BY APRIL 1, 2015

The Pre-Conference Tour includes visits, transportation and lunch. Due to limited seating, this portion of our event will fill up quickly. Please reserve early to avoid disappointment. Hotel accommodations are NOT included in the Pre-Tour.

The Annual Meeting Package includes site admission fees, transportation; Wednesday reception; Thursday lunch; Friday lunch; Saturday lunch and dinner. Hotel accommodations are NOT included in the Annual Meeting Package.

The Post-Conference Tour includes visits, transportation and lunch. Due to limited seating, this portion of our event will fill up quickly. Please reserve early to avoid disappointment. Hotel accommodations are NOT included in the Post-Tour.

Special Note: Bear in mind that there will be extensive walking so please bring comfortable shoes. We regret that we cannot provide alternate means of transportation for those who have walking or endurance difficulties. Public transportation is available in some areas, but participants will be responsible for the cost if they use them.

Getting There: Savannah is served by the Savannah – Hilton Head International Airport (airport code: SAV). The following airlines provide service: Delta, Jet Blue, United, US Air, and American Eagle. Savannah is also easily accessible by train (Amtrak) and bus (various companies) as well as by car.

Weather: May weather in Savannah is warm, with average daily highs in the low 80s and daily lows in the low 60s. It is advisable to check the local forecast before departure and dress accordingly.

Eating Out in Savannah: There are a number of restaurants – of various types, cuisines and price points – within walking distance of the hotel.

Hotel Information: Our headquarters hotel is the **Hilton Savannah DeSoto Hotel**, 15 East Liberty Street, Savannah, GA 31402. The main phone number for reservations is 877-280-0751. Please use this number to make your room reservation

and be sure to mention that you are with the Victorian Society in America to get the discounted rate. We have reserved a block of rooms at a discounted rate of \$179.00 per night single or double occupancy, and these rooms will be held for us exclusively until April 5, 2015. After this date, the discounted rate will no longer be available and the rooms will be subject to availability.

MAKING RESERVATIONS AND ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE HOTEL ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AND AT YOUR EXPENSE. THE SOCIETY'S ONLY ROLE IS TO SECURE THE DISCOUNTED GROUP RATE.

How to Register: Registration can be made via check (preferable), credit card or money order. Checks should be made payable to The Victorian Society in America. The Victorian Society in America is not responsible for accidents, injury or loss of personal items during this program. The Victorian Society in America reserves the right to make such changes to the schedule, sites to be visited, or personnel as may become necessary or desirable. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. **As this mailing has been sent via first class mail reservations will be taken immediately.** RESERVE EARLY AS SPACE IS LIMITED. Phone or fax reservations will ONLY be taken with a credit card payment at the time of reservation. Send your fax reservations to (215) 636-9873.

Refunds: Refunds will only be given until April 6, 2015. A \$100.00 administrative fee will be deducted from each refund. **After April 6, 2015 no refunds of any kind will be given.**

Trip Insurance: If you think that there is a chance that you will need to withdraw from this trip after you have paid you may wish to consider purchasing trip insurance. Trip insurance protects you against any unforeseen need to cancel. Trip insurance can cover the the Society's fee and your airfare and hotel costs. There are many providers of this type of insurance; one place to start looking is www.insuremytrip.com, (tel 800-487-4722). The Society is providing this information purely as a service to you, and we do not receive any compensation from any insurance organization.

	COST	NO.OF PEOPLE	TOTAL
Member registration fee (for national VSA members)	\$50	_____ =	_____
General registration fee (for non-members)	\$85	_____ =	_____
Individual national VSA membership (this will qualify you to pay the member registration fee & receive full membership benefits for 2015)	\$55	_____ =	_____
Pre-Conference Tour	\$165	_____ =	_____
Annual Meeting Package (not including pre- or post-tour)	\$525	_____ =	_____
Post-Conference Tour	\$185	_____ =	_____
Optional Chapters Breakfast on May 8	\$15	_____ =	_____
TOTAL REGISTRATION AMOUNT		=	\$ _____

Please check if applicable:

I / we will be attending the Chapters Breakfast on May 8

I / we will be attending the Alumni Annual Meeting & Dinner on May 8

(separate advance registration is required for this event – see information elsewhere in this brochure)

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ made payable to The Victorian Society in America

Please charge my credit card # _____

Exp. date _____ Sec. Code _____

Signature _____

Name _____ First name on name tag: _____

Additional Participant _____ First name on name tag: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ Phone (evening) _____

Email address _____

Please mail your completed form with your payment to:

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