

garden laid out by Landon Carter, son of Robert "King" Carter. The following summer, Darrin Alfred studied the large formal garden at Eyre Hall, established by Thomas Eyre on the Eastern Shore, now beautifully restored by the current owner and descendant of Eyre.

Four fellows over a period of three years researched the landscapes of Upper and Lower Breemo and Breemo Recess, all owned by John Hartwell Cocke, a contemporary of Thomas Jefferson. Zachary Rutz traced the history of Stafford County's Chatham from the original 1666 land deed through its Civil War days, on through the 1920s creation of the gardens by Ellen Biddle Shipman, as documented by Frances Benjamin Johnston, to its current stewardship by the National Park Service.

Other notable fellowship sites include Tuckahoe in Goochland County, where Thomas Jefferson spent much of his boyhood; Staunton's Old Western State Hospital, the fifth oldest mental institution in the

country; Carter Hall in Millwood, built by Nathaniel Burwell, great-grandson of Robert "King" Carter; the Reynolds Homestead in Critz, the boyhood home of R.J. Reynolds; and the iconic George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria. Altogether, twenty-five historically significant sites have been documented since the inception of the program.

Southern Garden History Society members who have participated in this fellowship include: Andrew Kohr (2004), Penelope Heavner (2005), Karen Kennedy (2009), and Cheryl Miller (2014).

The reports and drawings are archived in the GCV's Kent-Valentine House library as well as the Cherokee Garden Library at the Atlanta History Center; they may also be viewed online at www.gcvfellowship.org/archive.cfm. It is the GCV's hope that these comprehensive records will serve as valuable resources for all future study of historic Virginia landscapes.

George McDaniel and Drayton Hall

Society members attending next year's Charleston annual meeting are highly encouraged to visit Drayton Hall, the mid-eighteenth-century home of John Drayton and family. A planter of great means, Drayton built a house on the Ashley River suitable to his stature and which today survives as one of America's best examples of the influence of Italian Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio. Drayton also understood the latest English tastes in landscape design, and his grounds reflected the naturalistic design themes then in vogue across the Atlantic.

Heading up activities at Drayton Hall (a National Trust property) for over a quarter of a century, George McDaniel, Ph. D., recently announced his departure as President and Executive Director. He will continue to serve, however, as President Emeritus and as a consultant regarding Drayton operations.

Many readers will be aware of Dr. McDaniel's work at Drayton Hall. Many also know the example he has set for all employed in the field sometimes termed "public history." This is most especially true for those seeking to establish bridges to the academic community, as well as to what might be termed the "site community" in the case of such properties as Drayton Hall. The author first came to admire Dr. McDaniel's abilities in conjunction with his research



George McDaniel

relating to the descendants of those once enslaved at Stagville Plantation near Durham, North Carolina, work undertaken in conjunction with his doctoral studies at Duke University.

Dr. McDaniel's achievements while at Duke and elsewhere in expanding our knowledge of the enslaved members of the plantation community, *and* of their descendants, have certainly had a substantial influence on the author and surely many others. (His book *Hearth and Home: Preserving a People's Culture* is to be highly recommended.) Recent horrific events in Charleston have underscored the vital need to continue such research and to continue such bridge building.

Above all, George McDaniel's tenure at Drayton Hall has shown the merits of public history leadership by those with roots the academic community, a community sometimes offering limited access to "ordinary" individuals. Through scholarly attention to the sometimes less thoroughly studied assets of historic properties and museums, such leadership can open exciting new vistas via enhanced tours for daily visitors, school groups, Web site users, and more.

Kenneth M. McFarland, Editor

