

The Altamaha Echoes

The Lower Altamaha Historical Society

May 15, 1986

P. O. Box 1405, Darien, Georgia 31305

Vol. I, No. 1.

HOW very appropriate it is that we are launching "The Altamaha Echoes," our newsletter, in the 250th Anniversary Year for Darien.

On Oglethorpe's advice, a military company of Highland Scots was recruited from the Inverness area, and with their families were established (1736) at the mouth of the Altamaha River. The nearby site of Fort King George (1721) had been abandoned nine years prior to the arrival of Oglethorpe's Scots.

This company of Scots played a decisive role in the bulwark of defenses of the Colony of Georgia. Construction was begun on Fort Frederica that same year the Scots settled Darien. Other fortified strong points, served by Scots, strategically placed by Oglethorpe, were stretched thinly down the coast to the St. John's River, and too uncomfortably close for Spanish St. Augustine to enjoy.

On January 19, 1986, the people of Darien celebrated the 250th anniversary of their town's historic past, while the First Presbyterian Church, supported by Savannah Presbytery and others of the denomination from distant parts of Georgia, met here to honor that original congregation of Scots from which the present Darien Presbyterian church is descended. It was an impressive ceremony, led by Dr. David H. C. Read, himself a Scot, and minister of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church of New York City.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The formation of the Lower Altamaha Historical Society was begun in November, 1979, and incorporated on March 24th, 1980, to provide a focal point for the gathering, sharing and enjoyment of the history of Coastal Georgia, with emphasis on McIntosh County, the Altamaha River Basin and Fort King George. Miss Bessie Lewis, Miss Frances Haynes, Miss Anne Lee Haynes, Mrs. Elizabeth Wylly Aug, Mrs. Will Dean, Mrs. Evella Brown, Mrs. Freida Stebbins, Mrs. Gertrude Mallard and Mrs. Lillian Schaitberger, William G. Haynes, Jr., William B. Dean, Paul H. Ploeger, Jr., Daniel H. White and Norman Edwards, were among the founding members. The first slate of officers included William B. Dean as President, Evella Brown as Vice President, Norman Edwards as Secretary and Mrs. Lillian Schaitberger as Treasurer.

Since its inception, the Society has seen its membership grow to the present 35 members. They, and interested non-members, meet monthly to hear a talk on historical subjects with a Coastal Georgia bias. Programmes are as varied as possible, from Bottle Collecting to the Salzburger connection or Coastal Indian cultures. As a non-profit organization, L. A. H. S. is well situated to play an active role in future historical promotion in McIntosh County and beyond. Above all, its aim is to enhance as much as possible the fascination and enjoyment of the area's rich historical resources.

With this goal in mind, L. A. H. S. 1985 President, Rundle Cook, Secretary Bill Haynes and the Board of Directors decided to publish this occasional newsletter, "Altamaha Echoes," to serve as one means of communication between L. A. H. S. members and as a source of information on upcoming events, snippets of practical information and general historical news of interest. Since all exchange of information is definitely a two-way street, suggestions for future programmes and ideas or contributions to this publication are most welcome — talk to Jeannine Cook at 912-832-4606.

BOOK REVIEW

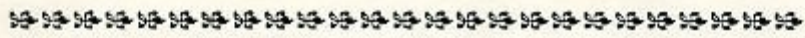
Coastal Georgia with photography by Van Jones Martin and text by Beth Lattimore Reiter, published by Golden Coast Publishing Co., 1985. 127 pp., in hard & soft cover.

Coastal Georgia offers readers an excellent introduction to the area, both from a visual and historical viewpoint. Beth Lattimore Reiter's text is vividly and tautly written, spanning the eras of prehistory, colonisation, post-Revolution plantation prosperity, War between the States and Reconstruction, to day's world of resorts, lumber and fishing industries, military facilities and historic preservation. Van Jones Martin's photographs illustrate the diversity and beauty of natural and historic sites, often capturing the essence of the Georgia Coast. Despite their frequently small size, they convey the qualities of timelessness and golden light special to this area. As well-chosen counterpoints to the photographs are quotes from early writings on the area and additional historical commentaries. A series of maps completes the book, enabling the reader to situate the natural and historical sites mentioned in the text. This book is a lovely evocation of our area's unique history and natural beauties and makes a delightful present to oneself or to a friend.

FOOTNOTES

With a view to helping L. A. H. S. members who might wish to investigate acquiring funds to preserve historic structures, the Society asked Miss Holley Dean to share her experience of negotiating bureaucratic labyrinth after she acquired the Dunwoody-Cain-Tyson house at the Ridge, now designated as one of McIntosh County's Historic Districts. Having applied for all requisite forms and information on historic restoration, Miss Dean received forms and a very helpful booklet specifying the "dos and don'ts" of restoring an old house. More strictures concern preserving the historic aspects of houses' exteriors than the interiors, where bathrooms, kitchens, etc. can be installed or modernised without difficulties. Completing the paperwork can be complicated and Miss Dean emphasised the need for an accountant knowledgeable in this field or one of Savannah's firms specialising in obtaining National Register certification for a house. Under the National Register programme, owners are refunded 25 per cent of the first year's restoration costs, 20 per cent the second year and the owner cannot live in the house for five years but must rent it out, which can therefore imply a possible tax shelter. After five years, the owner can live in the house. Atlanta should in theory, check on the terminated restoration work.

Anyone wishing to learn more about this historic preservation process can contact Miss Holley Dean at 1-800-342-9654.



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- Mr. & Mrs. Philip Dalrymple
- Mr. & Mrs. W. B. Dean
- Mr. & Mrs. William Dettmer
- Mrs. Ralph Gill
- Mr. & Mrs. Talbot Harding
- Mrs. Harold Hawthorne
- Miss Anne Lee Haynes
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- Mr. W. G. Haynes Jr.
- Mr. Alfred W. Jones, III
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- Ms. Sheila Parker
- Mr. Paul Ploeger
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- Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Ryals
- Ms. Lillian L. Schaitberger
- Mr. & Mrs. Derek Stewart
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- Treasurer: Mrs. Lillian Schoitbarger

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- Mrs. Linda Miller Mrs. Sheila Parker
- Mrs. Doris Rabb

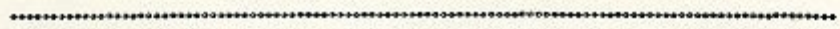
1984-85 Board of Directors

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- Sarah Dalrymple Mrs. Dorothy Morton

1986 Officers & 1986-87 Directors elected in May

HONORARY MEMBERS

- Dr. Delma E. Presley
- Dr. George A. Roggers
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LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

- () Libraries \$25.
- () Historical Societies \$25.
- () Corporate \$25.
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- () Individual \$10.
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Lower Altamaha Historical Society
P. O. Box 1405, Darien, Georgia 31305

THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDERS

A feature of Darien's 250th anniversary celebration which might interest L. A. H. S. members is the compilation by Mrs. Lillian Schaitberger of the list of Scottish Highlanders who arrived in Darien on the *Prince of Wales* in 1736, the more detailed list of all those living in Darien from 1736-41 and the 1986 list of descendants of those early Scottish settlers who are presently living in McIntosh County.

Anyone interested in these lists should contact Mrs. Schaitberger at 912-437-4885.

FUTURE PROGRAMMES

7:30 p. m. on the 3rd Thursday, at the Courthouse, Darien

May 15th, 1986: Mr. Aage Janson, manager of Altama Delta Corp., will give a talk on shoes, or history in the making, by this important employer in McIntosh County.

June 19th: Author-photographer Jack Leigh will give an illustrated talk on his book *Oystering - a Way of Life* & his forthcoming book on the Ogeechee River *A River & its People* to be published by University of Georgia Press.

July 17th: Dr. John Bozeman of the Dept. of Natural Resources will talk about "Billy Bartram's Lost Franklina."

August 21st: Holley Dean and Jim Lawrence will talk about the restoration of old houses and show slides of houses before and after restoration.

Lower Altamaha Historical Society

P. O. Box 1405

Darien, Georgia 31305

Mr. and Mrs. Stanton Googe
P. O. Box 452
Darien, Ga. 31305