

LAHS NEWS

JUNE 1991

Lower Altamaha Historical Society Inc.
P.O Box 1405 Darien, Georgia 31305.

VOL 1 No 2

June Meeting

7.30 pm, Thursday June 20th, at the McIntosh County Courthouse in Darien

Ms. Mattie Lee Baxley will take us back to circa 1773, when Mary Musgrove, Indian wife of a white trader brought together General Oglethorpe and Chief Tomochiebi. The Indians ceded land between Savannah and the Altamaha River and agreed to spurn the French and Spanish. Mary Musgrove did a great deal to protect the settlers at a critical time.

1991 Calendar

The Society welcomes all corners to their meetings. Meetings are held at the Historic Courthouse on the third Thursday of each month.

July 18th.

Dr. Robert Rathburn, Director of Museums and Preservation at the Jekyll Island Authority *will* speak on "Millionaires Village".

August 15th.

Mr. Stanley H. Whonich of Jesup: From Darien to the Indian Fort at Hawksville on the Altamaha River.

September 19th.

Ms. Mary Miller, author of "Cumberland Island, the unsung North End."

October 17th.

Speaker Mr. Elliot O Edwards, Chairman of the Bartram Trail Annual Conference for 1991. The Conference will take place on the 8th. and 9th. of November at the Desoto Hilton Hotel in Savannah.

October 31st.

Business meeting for the "fifth Thursday."

November 21st.

To be arranged.

December 21st.

Christmas Party at Fort King George, sponsored by LAHS members and the staff of Fort King George. Members of the public are cordially invited.

Field Trips.

August 6th

Behind the scenes at Jekyll, Escort, Warren Murphy, Director of Preservation.
Charge \$8, limit of 20.

Mutually convenient times,

Tour of the Altamaha River, courtesy of LAHS President, Carolyn Hodges.

October 15th.

To Cumberland Island, 40 minute boat trip direct to Dungeness Dock and then by boat to Plum Orchard. Charge of \$20, limited to 50 persons.

October 29th.

Excursion to Fort Barrington, near where William Bartram found the "lost Gordonia tree," (Gordonia Alatomaha) in 1765.

Genealogy

Guale Historical Society of St. Mary's report that the Moultrie-Coquit County Library has a new wing donated by the Late Ellen Payne Odom. It houses the Reverend Silas Lucas's collection of more than 6,000 volumes devoted to the genealogy of families of the Eastern States, Britain, Western Europe and the Caribbean.

To Mark the Columbus Quincentenary in 1992.

Members are invited to become involved. You are needed!

Committee Chairpersons are:

Marion Ricker: Columbus Square.

Carolyn Crowder: Library and Sapelo Island Quarantine Station.

Carolyn Hodges: Ceremony to mark Columbus' exploration of the "Rio Seco.

Everret Moriarty: "Columbus Day" dinner at Fort King George.

George Buntyn: Model ship replicas.

Jeannine Cook: Exhibit, "Columbus and the land of Ayllon". Visit by the Spanish replicas.

Ken Akins: Tree planting and research. (Orange, fig and Olive.)

Lloyd Flanders: Schools, pottery kilns and such.

Past Field Trip Ossabaw Island

(5th April 1991)

Members drove to Bryan County and embarked in two small boats to make the trip to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Dock on the Island. At the dock we climbed aboard a large trailer with wooden seats for the journey to South Beach. A flat tire, fixed by the DNR staff, gave some of us an excuse for walking the remaining half mile to the beach. Our hostess Mrs. Sandy West later came to our rescue, and graciously escorted us around the Island. Lunch

was taken at a picnic site on the gloriously unspoiled South Beach. Afterwards we journeyed North to Mrs. West's home. En route a herd of Sicilian donkeys and a large alligator provided an interesting diversion. The big house is impressive, It was built in the 1920's. We were able to browse through and admire the large dining room and living room with their collection of memorabilia. Mrs. West is making prodigious efforts to preserve the island in its pristine state. She is promoting its use as a retreat for educational and cultural groups, to provide an opportunity for discussions and personal renewal. Our group was pleased to be able to make a donation to the Foundation and we wish Mrs. West all success in her selfless and daunting efforts to keep the Island pure. We hated to leave such a gracious hostess.

Members who ordered books by Mrs. West should see Carolynn Hodges. the consignment has arrived.

Visit to Wormsloe and Bethesda

Braving ticks and redbugs, seven members walked out to see the ruins of the old house and thoroughly enjoyed the undisturbed land. We left the Visitors center via a road flanked by majestic live oaks, several hundred years old. We then went to Bethesda, An orphanage started by the Rev. Whitfield in 1740. Later it was continued by Lady Huntington during the period 1770 to 1791. Services for youths are held in the Chapel every Tuesday at 4-pm; Home to about 45 boys, they are housed in cottages according to age. There is a couple to serve as house parents in each cottage. There are excellent swimming and basketball facilities. Always in need of funds, the Home has been greatly helped by Barney Diamond a successful businessman, himself a former Bethesda boy. We found this a very rewarding excursion.

Cemetery Committee Report.

The Committee goal is to preserve and record all burial grounds in McIntosh County. Graves of member's families and friends are included, as well as the many historic and prehistoric sites. Members will be extending the Evy White survey of 1958 to 1959. Committee members, notably chairperson Mattie Gladstone and Marion Ricker have developed forms suited to local needs. Over forty cemeteries are presently listed. Compilation of field data's scheduled for this coming fall. We plan to use the Darien News to publicize our need for information from the public. Information should be given to the Library or to committee members. They are: Mattie Gladstone, Lillian Schaitberger, Marion Ricker, Carolyn Crowder, Will Dean, Doris Rabb, Lloyd Flanders, Myrtle Ncwbcrry, and Annie Gill. Everett Moriarty and Dyson Flanders have located (and in some cases cleaned) 8 graves, and found the final resting place at the old City Cemetery of the Indian woman and child (circa 200 to 600 AD.) found at Swift Creek. The committee plans to publish its final report in the Altamaha Echoes, the Societies Journal.

Book Reviews.

"The Journal of Archibald C. McKinley"

Edited by Robert L. Humphries and introduced by Russell Duncan.

The account provides intimate glimpses into the daily struggles and pleasures of Archibald C. Mckinley, a young Confederate Officer who married Sally Spalding. Sally was granddaughter of Thomas Spalding. Archibald, with Sally's brothers Bourke and Tom, set about to revitalize the farming on Sapelo Island. After seven years they decided that they could profit most from supplying beef to the timber ships in Doboy Sound. They butchered the cattle and took the meat to

the ships in a sailboat, and later in a very untrustworthy steamboat The stories of being bedeviled by tide and weather and Sally Spalding McKinley's account of the hurricane of 1898 make for lively reading.

“Robert-Durfee’s Journal and Recollections”

Edited by Virginia Steele Wood.

Published by Belden Books, P.O. Box 552, Marion MA 02738 or write to Virginia S. Wood, 2030 F Street NW.# 601 Washington DC 20006

Robert Durfee's travels from New England to the coast of Georgia were a sore trial. He was plagued by illness and epidemics, chronic poverty and loneliness. He encountered raging fires and tempestuous seas. There are accounts of visits with family, parties with friends and rejection by attractive ladies. Immensely interesting, this is a record of events in a life uncomplicated by fame.

Membership

(Subscriptions due May)

Individual \$10.	Family \$15	Student \$2.50
Corporate \$25 or donation.	Library and	
Societies \$10.	

Officers of the Lower Altamaha Historical Society.

President, Carolyn Hodges, Vice President Geneva Stebbins
Treasurer, Lillian Schaitberger, Secretary, Sandra Christopherson.

Historian Emeritus (Honorary Board Member)W G. Haynes
Board A. Rundle Cook Dyson Flanders
George Buntyn Elizabeth Aug
Manic Gladstone Everret Moriarily.
Lloyd Flanders

Additional acknowledgements:

Book reviews based on Carolyn Hodges contribution,

Reports on trips based on Dyson Flanders notes.

Rundle Cook, your news editor pro tern, is working the bugs out of his ***Publishers program. He begs your indulgence, and your timely contributions. tel (912) 832-4606. .