

NEWSLETTER

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

August 1992

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Meetings are held at the Historic Courthouse on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm. The Society extends a hearty welcome to all.

LAHS MEETING, August 20, 1992

“Spanish Influence on the Golden Isles of Georgia” An original slide presentation created and presented by Lloyd Flanders.

Mrs. Flanders is a native of McIntosh County and attended Darien public schools. She studied Georgia History in the sixth grade under the guidance of Mrs. Rena Poppell Thomson. This outstanding teacher inspired the love and interest in Georgia History that has been with Lloyd Flanders through her formal education and continues today. Mrs. Flanders received her undergraduate degree at Wesleyan College, Macon, Georgia, her masters degree at Mercer University, Macon, Georgia, and several special degrees at Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, Georgia. Dr. Spencer Bidwell King, Jr. was another influential teacher with whom Lloyd Flanders studied Georgia History.

SPECIAL EVENTS

September 4-5, 1992- Fort King George- 10:00am to 5:00pm, both days. NATIVE AMERICANS OF THE GEORGIA COAST Indians will camp on the site and interpret their culture for visitors. There will be demonstrations showing all facets of Indian life. Native American Foods and crafts will also be sold for those seeking quality Indian goods. We hope that all people in the coastal empire will join us for a day of story-telling, dancing, and celebrating these people's noble heritage.

COLUMBUS and the Land of AYLLON
Seminar
Darien, Georgia
September 25-27, 1992

The Lower Altamaha Historical Society, in conjunction with the Georgia, Middle Georgia, Coastal Georgia and Thomas County Historical Societies and Georgia Southern University, have pleasure in inviting you to attend the Seminar Columbus and the Land of Ayllon. The seminar is free and open to all. Teachers, professors and students are especially welcome.

This seminar is of particular relevance to early European, African and Native American history in this region. The Seminar is supported in part by the Georgia Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities and appropriations from the Georgia General Assembly.

Was ever a tale more writ in blood than this I am about to tell? Or more put away from memory... for little remains but bone and parchment. The ships have all melted in the seas, the

villages are charcoal dust under field and forest, the men and women who fought and suffered and died have no tombstones. Yet something may be learned from the telling. For this is not only the story of how a king and his people tried and failed to settle a wild new world. Nor only the story of nations at war-Spanish, French, English, Guale, Chisca, Orista. It is the story also of how knowledge is so hard won, how men and women of our own time, archaeologists and historians, piece together the past, tiny bit by fragment by sherd, until what is revealed to our wondering eyes is a portrait of ourselves.[National Geographic Magazine, March 1988, Exploring Our Forgotten Century, by Joseph Judge, senior associate editor]

When this article appeared in National Geographic in 1988, it was to many in McIntosh County and South Georgia the awareness that the location of the lost colony “San Miguel de Gualdape” was in the Sapelo Sound. It was also their introduction to the name of Paul E. Hoffman who believes that the site of Gualdape lies somewhere in Sapelo Sound. Dr. Hoffman is Professor of History at Louisiana State University and one of the 12 distinguished scholars that will discuss the Lost Colony and its consequences at the Seminar. This article also introduced Lucas Vasquez de Ayllon, a wealthy lawyer from Spain who was residing in Santo Domingo, in the modern Dominican Republic. It was Ayllon, who in 1526, built the first European settlement on the Eastern Seaboard; he called it San Miguel de Gualdape. Ayllon died on October 18, 1526 at Gualdape. Only 150 persons out of some 500 made it back home. Nothing remained except words on a map, repeated on maps of North America for the next 50 years, “land of ayllon.”

The credit for creating this early American history Seminar of unusual interest and importance goes to Jeannine Cook. Although many people and groups have helped and supported this activity, it would not have happened had it not been for Jeannine Cook. Jeannine, artist and writer, has written for such publications as Smithsonian and Connoisseur magazines. Her drawings and watercolours have won numerous awards in exhibitions throughout the United States. Although she is native to Tanzania, East Africa, her formative years were spent in Spain. With her knowledge of the language, culture, and scholarship of Spain, one can understand her interest in the “land of ayllon”. How fortunate we, in McIntosh, County are to have her intellect, organization ability, interest and proficiency to bring this prestigious seminar to Darien. Jeannine and Rundle Cook have lived in McIntosh County since 1984. Jeannine’s Ayllon Committee has recently distributed twelve thousand attractive brochures over Georgia and the Southeast U.S. Jeannine reports that many reservations have already been received. A large gathering is expected for the weekend in Darien. Please use this brochure to **MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE..**