

# **NEWSLETTER**

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

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April 1995

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Meetings are held at the Ida Hilton Library, Haynes Auditorium, on the third Thursday of each month, 7:30 P.M. The Society extends a hearty welcome to all.

**LAHS MEETING, APRIL 20, 1995, 7:30 P.M.:" WASSAW ISLAND, Past, Present, Future"** is the title of the program that will be presented by Ellie Quaile Legg. Wassaw Island is one of the smaller and younger of Georgia's barrier islands. It lies south of Tybee Island, north of Ossabaw Island, and west of Skidaway Island. Wassaw is accessed by water only. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has the management responsibility of nine tenths of the island known as the "Wassaw Island National Wildlife Refuge". The Parsons family descendants have the management responsibility of the remaining one tenth of the island, approximately 180 acres, known as the "Wassaw Island Trust".

Ellie Legg, a Parsons family descendant, will relate many stories about her Great Grandfather, George Parsons. George and his brother Edwin owned a Cotton Brokerage Firm in Savannah and a Bank in Macon, during the mid nineteenth century. George Parsons acquired Wassaw Island in 1866. The story about Ellie's Great Grandmother, unaided, taking her seven children from Savannah to Wassaw in 1866 is remarkable. Ellie will show a copy of a deed for a Slave, and tell about "The King's Grant" for Wassaw Island.

Ellie Legg was raised in New England, every year, the family would vacation on Wassaw. She attended Wellesley College in Massachusetts and School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Wassaw Island continued to be a part of Ellie's life. She honeymooned there, vacationed there often with her growing family, two sons and one daughter. In 1989 she and her husband Jack built a home at Sutherland's Bluff. They share Wassaw Island often with grandchildren, family, and friends. In May, Ellie will share Wassaw Island with LAHS members in a one day Field Trip.

## **ELECTION OF LAHS OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 1995-1996**

The election of LAHS officers and Board of Directors for the new year 1995-96 will be held at the April meeting. The slate of nominees presented by the Nominating Committee and nominations from the floor will be considered. The Nominating Committee, Buddy Sullivan, Mattie Gladstone, Everett Moriarty nominate the following persons:

|                 |                |                               |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| President;      | Lloyd Flanders | Board of Directors, 1995-1997 |
| Vice-President: | Buddy Sullivan | Ken Akins                     |
| Secretary:      | Debi Edgar     | Dyson Flanders                |
| Treasurer:      | Honey Fanning  | Don McClain                   |

**CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY, APRIL 26** To celebrate Confederate Memorial Day, your are requested to bring any Confederate relics to the April meeting for SHOW & TELL.

Board of Directors Meeting, April 20, 1995, 6:00 P.M.

**LAHS ANNUAL MEETING, MAY 18, 1995, 7:30 P.M.:**The Annual Report for LAHS 1994-95 will be presented and Goals for the New Year will be examined. Your LAHS membership should be renewed by May 1, see enclosed envelope. The speaker for this meeting will be announced in The Darien News and The Brunswick News.

## **FORT KING GEORGE STATE HISTORIC SITE**

The \$100,000 Exhibit Renovation in the Interpretation Center at the Fort is nearing completion. The Open House Dedication will be announced at a later date. The "MOCK SCOUT BOAT AND SWIVEL GUN" has been constructed inside the Interpretation Center. This is a "hands on" exhibit for children and adult visitors. This Scout Boat and Swivel Gun depicts a typical eighteenth century patrol boat of the coastal waterways.

The Site presents CANNON DEMONSTRATIONS, hourly, on the 2nd & 4th Saturday of each month, weather & volunteers permitting, from 11:00 A.M.--4:00 P.M.

APRIL 8, 1995---10:00 A.M.

Don Cohrs will make a presentation on "THE MIGRATORY BIRDS OF COASTAL GEORGIA".

APRIL 8, 1995---1:00 P.M.

Steve Hein, a Naturalist with Center of Wildlife Education, Georgia Southern University will present a program on BIRDS OF PREY. The viewers will be permitted to photograph and observe the live specimens which will possibly include: Peregrine Falcon, Hawk, Owl, Bald Eagle, and Snakes.

## **GEORGIA HISTORICAL MARKER-Located on US17, 8.8 miles north of Darien**

### **CAPTURE OF 23 OLD MEN IN 1864**

Near here, in Ebenezer Church, 23 old men were captured by Federal troops on the night of August 3rd, 1864. These civilians, too old for military service, were the sole protection of McIntosh County, which was constantly being plundered by forces from blockade gunboats.

Advised of the meeting by spies, Federal troops surrounded the church in the darkness and opened fire. The old men were captured and marched overland to Blue and Hall Landing near Darien, where they were put on board ship and taken to Northern prisons.

Excerpt from *Early Days on the Georgia Tidewater*, page 316-317

Commander Colvocoresses furnished Rear Admiral Dahlgren with the following list of the McIntosh County men he captured in the raid:

Joseph S. Durant, 33, planter and tax collector for McIntosh County

William Summerline, 57, planter.

Converse Parkhurst, 51, merchant.

William Donnelly, 53, farmer and coroner of McIntosh County

William Nelson, 51, farmer.

Charles Trezevant, 50, farmer.

William Townsend, 58, farmer.

William J. Cannon, 60, farmer and salt maker.

William Thorpe, 46, farmer and justice of the peace for McIntosh County.

James R. Webber, 55, sawyer and farmer.

C. Bennett, 51, shoemaker.

George Young, 51, farmer and wheelwright.

Macgregor Blount, 52, farmer.

William Sallet, 58, planter.

William D. Rowe, 52, farmer

James D. McDonald, 50, farmer and saltmaker

B. LeSeur, 32, saltmaker at South Newport

Samuel R. J. Thorpe, 40, farmer

John Hendrickson, 51; George Johnston, 16; Daniel Lane, 16; Obed S. Davis, 20.

John Chapman, 55, planter.

Isham L Johnston, 36, planter and justice of inferior court, McIntosh