

# NEWSLETTER

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

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

## **LAHS MEETING, AUGUST 24, 1995, PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN DATE--**

**LAHS Meeting, August 24, 1995, 7:30 P.M.:** The program will be " THE MARINE ARCHAEOLOGY OF GEORGIA: SHIPWRECKS AND PREHISTORIC HUNTERS " presented by Dr. Ervan G. Garrison, University of Georgia, Department of Anthropology. Dr. Garrison has been made available to LAHS from the Franklin College Outreach Program of the University of Georgia.

The accounts of several shipwrecks in McIntosh County can be researched in "*Early days on the Georgia Tidewater*" by Buddy Sullivan. Refer to the Index under shipwrecks.

**LAHS Meeting, September 21, 1995, 7:30 P.M.:** The program will be "SAPELO ISLAND, PAST-PRESENT-FUTURE" presented by Buddy Sullivan, Manager, SAPELO ISLAND NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE. Some of the highlights in this program will be : The restoration projects of the Sapelo Lighthouse and the Reynolds Mansion, and the completion of the SAPELO ISLAND VISITORS CENTER. Brochures and Pamphlets will be distributed to those attending. Buddy will autograph his published books which will be available or your personal copies.

Buddy Sullivan, historian, author, is well known to the LAHS membership, and McIntosh County. Through his published books and articles, he is respected as an authority on the people and events of McIntosh. Buddy was born at Cedar Point on the McIntosh County tidewater. He grew up playing amid the ruins of the old oyster cannery there and spent the days of his youth in around a variety of watercraft upon the creeks, rivers and sounds of the county. Buddy's forebears came to McIntosh County in 1894 when his great-grandfather, Thomas Marshall Hunter, was called as pastor of the Darien Presbyterian Church.

## **LAHS Meeting, October 19, 1995, 7:30 P.M.: FORT KING GEORGE HISTORIC SITE**

The program will be "INTERPRETING MULTI-CULTURES AT FORT KING GEORGE " presented by Kenneth Akins, Superintendent, Fort King George State Historic Site. Fort King George was established in 1721 by the Colony of South Carolina. The Blockhouse Replica was built in 1988 (LAHS was instrumental in accomplishing the building of the Blockhouse). The Georgia Department of Natural Resources manages the Historic Site which is a major attraction to Darien and McIntosh County. Weather permitting, Ken will personally walk those attending through this outstanding facility and demonstrate the ways in which Fort King George Historic Site is interpreting these various cultures to visitors from throughout the world.

Before coming to Fort King George, 12 years ago, Kenneth Akin taught Social Studies and the Gifted Program in the High School in Union County, Georgia.

He was born in Blairsville, Ga., graduated from Piedmont College, and has graduate credits from Georgia Southern University.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

The Field Trip to Wassaw Island scheduled for October has been postponed. Money has been refunded to those that prepaid. A new date for this Field Trip will be announced later.

**"WEEK-END ON SAPELO"** September 29,30, October 1--Special tours and discussions of Sapelo lead by Lloyd and Dyson Flanders, speakers will be Buddy Sullivan and Cornelia Bailey.

Round trip Boat transportation to Sapelo

All meals, set-ups, snacks on Island

Twin bedrooms with private bath in the Reynolds Mansion (2 nights)

\$222.00 per person--Your check will confirm your reservations.

Make check to LAHS, and mail to LAHS,P.O. Box 1405, Darien, Ga.31305

Reservation deadline, September 22--for further information, contact Dyson & Lloyd Flanders, 437 4504--- ALL FIELD TRIPS ARE OPEN TO LAHS MEMBERS

**THE FORT BY CANDLELIGHT** October 21, 1995--Visit the Site and experience Fort King George in a different light, the light of a candle ( 18th-century electricity). Candlelight Tours of the Fort & Blockhouse will begin at twilight.

Different periods of the Site's past will be presented along the tour. Tours will be given by historically attired interpreters.

#### **MEMBERSHIP DUES ENVELOPE**

If a Membership dues envelope is enclosed in this Newsletter, this is your notification that your 1995-96 dues have not been received. LAHS fiscal year is May 1 to April 30.

**GEORGIA HISTORICAL MARKERS**--Located on the grounds of Fort King George.

#### OLD FORT KING GEORGE

Site of old Fort King George, built in 1721 by Col. John Barnwell, of South Carolina, under British Royal orders. This tiny cypress block house, 26 feet square, with 3 floors, and a lookout in the gable from which the guard could watch over the Inland Waterway and St. Simons Island was flanked by officers quarters and barracks, and the entire area was surrounded on all but the river side by a moat and palisades. Garrisoned by his Majesty's Independent Company, with replacements of Colony scouts, the fort was occupied for six years. During that time more than 140 officers and soldiers lost their lives here and were buried on the adjacent bluff. The first of the British 18th century scheme of posts built to counteract French expansion in America, Fort King George was also a flagrant trespass upon Spanish territory, and during its occupation Spain continually demanded that it be destroyed.

The troops were withdrawn to Port Royal in 1727, but until Oglethorpe arrived in Savannah in 1733 South Carolina kept two lookouts at old Fort King George.

#### SITE OF EARLY SPANISH MISSION

This high bluff was the site of one of the early Spanish Missions of the old District of Guale. Here, in the late 16th and the 17th centuries, Franciscan friars labored with the Indians, converting them to Christianity and instructing them in agriculture and other crafts of civilization.

Occupied by a large Indian village before the coming of the Spaniards, this tract was an ideal site for the mission and school activities of the Spanish priests. Archaeological excavations in the area in 1941 and 1953 disclosed evidence of both Indian and Spanish occupation-Indian pottery and bone tools with Spanish olive jars, majolica and iron work, outlines of buildings constructed before and after the coming of white men.

Built in the area called by the Spaniards, "Talaje," the mission on this site was part of a chain of missions and visitas by which Spain held title for nearly two centuries to what is now the Coast of Georgia.