

NEWSLETTER

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

April 1996

Vol.5 No.6

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.

APRIL 13, 1996 FIELD TRIP --LeCONTE-WOODMANSTON PLANTATION

Dyson Flanders, Trustee and Director of the LeConte-Woodmanston Foundation, Inc. and the Foundation's Executive Director, Randy Miller will lead the LAHS members and invited friends on a Field Trip to the plantation site on Saturday, April 13. The schedule for LAHS members and their invited guest is: 8:30 A.M.-----Breakfast, Altman's Restaurant, Eulonia

9:30 A.M.-----Depart for plantation

10:00 A.M.-----on site

Lunch at Holton's, afterwards is an option.

LAHS MEETING, APRIL 18, 7:30 P.M.--HOFWYL-BROADFIELD PLANTATION--

The April meeting will be held at the Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation in order for us to fully appreciate the program which will feature this Historic Site in our community. One of the highlights of Ranger Andy Beckman program will be the viewing of the new film *People of Hofwyl-Broadfield*. The family silver will also be on display.

The Hofwyl-Broadfield Historic Site is managed by the Georgia Department Natural Resources. Ranger Andy Beckman has been with DNR for six years.

The election of LAHS officers for 1996-97 year will be held. The nominating committee presents the following slate for the memberships consideration:

President	Buddy Sullivan	<u>Board of Directors, 1996-98</u>
Vice-President	Natalie Webb	Donna Garner
Secretary	Mattie Gladstone	Everett Moriarty
Treasurer	Honey Fanning	Myrtle Newberry
		Kaye Traer

LAHS MEETING, MAY 16, 1996, 7:30 P.M.--SAPELO ISLAND VISITORS CENTER SAPELO DOCK, MERIDIAN

The May meeting will be held at the recently opened and dedicated Sapelo Island Visitors Center located at Sapelo Dock, Meridian. The program will introduce the interpretative displays and exhibits of this new facility. The planned future activities and volunteer program which will be centered here will bring Sapelo Island and McIntosh County to the attention of many people. This program will be presented by Buddy Sullivan, Manager, Sapelo Island Reserve, Bill Merriman, Manager, Sapelo Island Visitors Center, and Fred Hay, Education Coordinator for Sapelo Island Reserve.

ANNOUNCEMENT--from OFFICIAL PUBLICATION of CLAN MACKINTOSH of NORTH AMERICA Lieutenant-Commander Lachlan Ronald Duncan Mackintosh of Mackintosh, 30th Chief of Clan Mackintosh, died December 26, 1995, at Raggmor Hospital, Inverness.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

May 2, 1996--DEDICATION & RIBBON CUTTING--SAPELO ISLAND VISITORS CENTER

April 13, 1996--FORT KING GEORGE HISTORIC SITE--11 P.M.--4 P.M.

DARIEN IN FLAMES Huge flames utterly consumed the town of Darien on a fateful day in June, 1863. It was a tangible expression of uncontrolled emotions that clutched a nation. Visit the site and learn from interpreters in both Blue and Grey as they tell the tales of a small town in Southeast Georgia so effected

by the Civil War. Camp life, soldier's talk, drilling, and musket firings will be presented through the day.

April 26, 1996--**CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY**

Everett Moriarty will be placing some 130 flags on the graves of the Confederate Veterans buried in McIntosh County. A spray of flowers will be placed on the Confederate Monument at the Court House. In memory of our Confederate Veterans, families are encouraged to visit grave sites, April 26.

LIVING ON THE GEORGIA TIDEWATER

John Michael Fisher [1833-1913] and his wife Christina Leontina Schreiber [1841-1889] were the grandparents of Annie Cannon Fisher Gill and Mary Leontina Fisher Barber. The following is just a portion of their living experiences on the Georgia tidewater.

John Michael Fisher emigrated to Savannah, Ga., circa 1858-59 from Stuttgart, Wurtenburg, Germany. He worked as a Journeman baker in the German Bakery owned and operated by Philip & Margaret Giebelhauss, who had also emigrated from Wurtenburg, some years earlier.

Christina Leontina Schreiber and her mother and brother also emigrated to Savannah from Stuttgart, Wurtenburg, Germany, prior to 1860. The Schreiber family is listed in the 1860 Chatham County Census as: Frederick Schreiber, 20 year old shoemaker, Fredericka Schreiber 58 years old, female domestic, from Wuttenburg, Germany, Lenah {Leontina} Schreiber, 19 years old, dealer, cakes & candies.

The German emigrants of Savannah were an active congregation of the Lutheran Church of Ascension on Wright Square. This church, still active today, has always been known for the keeping of excellent records. Leontina Schreiber's First Communion and Confirmation in Germany in on record.

John Michael enlisted in the German Volunteers in Savannah on August 26, 1861. He enlisted as a Private in Company I. John Michael was captured at Fort Pulaski on the Savannah River by the Federal Army under the command of General Quincy Adams Gillmore, on April 10, 1862. The assault took place from a position opposite the fort on Tybee Island. Three hundred and sixty Confederates are taken prisoner; one Union soldier is killed, as is one Southerner.

John Michael related the story of this assault to his son John Henry. He, John Michael was assigned as Baker at Ft. Pulaski. The first shots of this attack were rolling across the parade ground at 3 A.M. as he was removing bread from the oven. He was first imprisoned at Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. [between April 10 and June 2, 1862] Joe Anderson, a negro, was also imprisoned there at this time. Many years later Joe Anderson was living in Darien on Highway 99, near Ashantilly Community. John Michael always kept Joe supplied with bread from Fisher's Bakery. Joe lived in a cabin in his daughters yard. Joe's daughter, Josephine was married to Jack Campbell.

John Michael appears on a Roll of P.O.W. at Fort Columbus, New York Harbor, June 2, 1862. He was delivered on July 12, 1862. He appears on a list of non-com officers and prisoners exchanged at Aiken's Landing, Virginia, August 5, 1862.

On December 30, 1862, he is a baker in General Hospital, No.1, Oglethorpe Barracks, Savannah. By order of General Mercer, he is assigned to Mercer Hospital on February 28, for 60 days.

In 1865, John Michael moved to the Ridge in McIntosh County. He built a Bake House and opened a Bakery at the Ridge. He returned to Savannah to marry Christina Leontina Schreiber at the Lutheran Church of Ascension on July 5, 1866.

Excerpts: **" Short Historical Sketch of McIntosh County, Ga."**
by Mrs. Helen Stanford Barclay September 1895 (*1)

On the Point, where Mr. William Mallard resides, there was to be seen until quite recently, one of the old Confederate look-outs, a scaffold secured along the limbs, whence one obtained a full view of the river and the Sound

(Sapelo), where gun-boats of the enemy came in June 1863. People on "The Ridge", our beautiful suburb and summer resort, watched the movements of these strangers with much apprehension. The gun-boats coming near "The Ridge", landed troops at Hall and Blue's Mill, and marched over a causeway to "The Ridge" where they were met by "McIntosh Calvary", doing picket duty under command of Lieutenant William H. Atwood (afterward Captain). After some sharp firing on both sides the marines fell back to their gun-boats and began shelling "The Ridge", the firing lasting three days. No lives were lost, but many a house bore the marks of that shelling for years. The women were plucky enough here, as all over the South, and even yet can tell of "tongue-lashings", though they might be their last; and heroic deeds they would not dare repeat. One very old lady, since dead, who could remember the last of British soldiers, told me that she was scared to death when the "Blue-Coats" began searching her house and she followed them obediently, opening doors and closets, quaking all the time, until they dragged out a trunk containing clothes once belonging to her husband; then she commanded them to "leave that and get down stairs!" with such sudden bravery that they obeyed, while she sat down to tremble all over.

Everybody knows, now, that the City of Darien an abandoned post and occupied at the time by a few men too old for service, was burned by order of Colonel Montgomery of the 14th Mass. (colored troops). This act of vandalism lay for years at the door of Colonel Robert Shaw, but in 1869 when an appeal was made to our Northern brethren for help to rebuild St. Andrew's Church, stating by whom, and how it had been destroyed, Mrs. Sarah Shaw sent a handsome sum, one thousand dollars, and published a card, saying that in justice to her son's memory, we ought to learn that the town was burned in spite of his protestations, by Colonel Montgomery.

Only four buildings were left in the town, and of these, two had been fired, but were saved by the efforts of Mr. Arthur Bailey and Mr. Moses Thompson.

The Methodist Church was one of them. Mr. Bailey had been detailed as a blockade-runner, and his boat, loaded with seventy-five bales of cotton was captured, but he escaped and in endeavoring to find somebody to aid in recapturing his boat, saw the fire and had the opportunity of saving these buildings. There are many of us left who remember the scene of utter desolation the town presented, even as late as Oct. 1866. The solitary chimneys marking the sites of comfortable, and often luxurious homes, the wide tracts of ashes and the charred trunks of the great live-oaks that once spread their boughs from side to side of the wide streets.

*1 *Early Days on the Georgia Tidewater* by Buddy Sullivan--page 520