

# NEWSLETTER

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

---

February 1996

Vol.5, No.5

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, February 15, 1996, 7:30 P.M. :** The program will be "The Maritime History of McIntosh County from 1810 to 1910" presented by McIntosh County historian Buddy Sullivan. With a lecture/slide program, Sullivan will focus on the impact and interplay that the local waterways and islands have had on the various phases of economic and commercial development of the county, including rice and sea island cotton plantations, lumbering and saw milling and the commercial oyster and shrimp fishery.

Much of the material for this program stems from the speaker's exhaustive research on the subject contained in his book, *Early Days on the Georgia Tidewater*, in which he thoroughly investigated McIntosh County's long-standing maritime and navigational traditions. The program will include information on related topics, such as the wide variety of watercraft associated with the county's maritime history, lighthouses, bar pilots and assorted other relevant subjects.

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, March 21, 1996, 7:30 P.M. :** The program, "LeCONTE-WOODMANSTON PLANTATION, PAST-PRESENT-FUTURE", presented by Randy C. Miller, Executive Director, LeConte-Woodmanston Foundation, Inc. Woodmanston Plantation was established in McIntosh County in 1760 by the brothers William and John Eatton LeConte. It flourished as one of Georgia's earliest inland swamp rice plantations. In 1983, a plan was arrived at which established as primary goals, the preservation of the LeConte family's legacy in America and the accurate portrayal of early nineteenth century plantation life in coastal Georgia. These goals continue to guide restoration efforts at Woodmanston, today in Liberty County, which are being conducted by the private, non-profit LeConte-Woodmanston Foundation, Inc.

Randy Miller is a native of Savannah. He was graduated from the University of Georgia, in Athens, with a Bachelor of Arts in History. His graduate courses are from Georgia State University in Atlanta. In 1994 he was employed as the first Executive Director of LeConte-Woodmanston Foundation, Inc. Miller oversees the restoration efforts of Woodmanston from the Foundation office in Midway. He conducts field trips to the plantation site, and works very closely with the Trustees and Directors. Dyson Flanders is a Trustee and Director of the LeConte-Woodmanston Foundation, Inc.

## **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS, LAHS**

LAHS has become an affiliate member of the GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. We are proud to join some fifty other historical societies in support of this great organization.

LAHS has purchased a print of John Stobart's painting *On The Georgia Tidewater Loading Sea Island Cotton at Darien c. 1862* The print is being framed by

Joe Durrett. It will be displayed in Darien in order for many to observe and enjoy.

**SPECIAL EVENTS:**

March 2, 1996--Day field trip for LAHS to Wassaw Island--Hostess, Ellie Legg--Rain day, March 9--Reservation confirmation, February 15--Reservations filled with waiting list--contact Everett Moriarty, 832 5250

March 8 and 9                    Spring Encampment    FORT KING GEORGE HISTORICAL SITE  
A living history portrayal of early 18th century life at Fort King George on the frontier that was to become Georgia. Demonstrations will be ongoing through the day : musket firings, drilling, cannon firings, tomahawk throwing, domestic skills, children's games, cooking, dyeing, candlemaking, and more. On Saturday, the encampment will be highlighted by a battle between the British and Spanish. Reenactors from all over the southeast will be participating in the special event portraying Ft. King George soldiers, Independent Companies, Spanish Garrison soldiers, Rangers, and Native Americans. The program Friday will be set aside for school groups.

***LIVING ON THE GEORGIA TIDEWATER***

William James Cannon [1804-1865] and his wife Anne Eliza McCollough [1815-1878] were the Great 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.

William James & Ann Eliza lived at Cannon's Bluff, north McIntosh County. Their house is thought to be near, what is now Belle's Bluff Marina, which was then, Bell's Landing & Trading Post, owned and run by Mr. Bell, husband of Sarah, William James's sister. William James was a farmer and Salt Ketcher, like his father.

In 1864 the ages of William James and Ann Eliza were 60 and 49 years. Parents of eleven children, only the three youngest ages 13, 10 & 8 were living at home. William James's oldest sister Mary Ann Jane Cannon Carroll [1802-1870] was an extended member of this family.

After the destruction of Darien in June 1863, the courthouse and a loosely-organized civil government of McIntosh C. was relocated to Ebenezer Church, north of Darien.--On the night of August 2-3, a Union naval force of 115 men landed at Sapelo Main (Baisden's Bluff), marched overland several miles and made prisoners of 26 McIntosh County men who were holding a meeting at the church at Ebenezer. [pg 315 *Early Days on the Georgia Tidewater*]

William James was one of the McIntosh County men captured at Ebenezer Church in August 1864. He was taken to New York Harbor and a northern prison.

He was released at Aiken's Landing, Virginia, on the James River, following the South's surrender. He died in Charlotte, N. C. , March 22, 1865, en route back home from prison. The family that sheltered and cared for William James, sent his personal effects with a letter to his wife Ann Eliza, telling of William James's death and burial on their place in Charlotte, N. C. . This letter was lost in the personal effects of Ann Eliza, during the hurricane-tidal wave of October 2, 1898. The descendants of William James do not know the name of the family or cemetery, except the locale of Charlotte, N. C.