

# NEWSLETTER

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

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April 1997

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

## CALLED MEETING

### **LAHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, APRIL 10, 1997, 3:15 P.M. HAYNES AUDITORIUM, IDA HILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

LAHS has commissioned Linda Hawks to design and have woven a Historic McIntosh County Afghan. The Afghan will be ready for sale in the Fall of 1997 and will be used by LAHS as a money making project. This called meeting is for the purpose of submitting suggestions of Historic importance to McIntosh, which will be used by Linda Hawks in designing the Afghan. LAHS members and Board members are urged to submit a list for this design, if they are unable to attend this called meeting.

### **LAHS MEETING, April 17, 1997, 7:30 P.M. HAYNES AUDITORIUM, IDA HILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY DUTCH TREAT SUPPER, 6:00 P.M. AT ARCHIE'S**

The election of Officers for 1997-98 and three Board of Directors for 1997-99 will be held at the LAHS Meeting on April 17. In addition to the slate of Officers and Board of Directors submitted by the 1997 Nominating Committee, nominations for these positions will be accepted from the floor. Nominations will be accepted for any LAHS member in good standing that has given their consent for this nomination.

The 1997 Nominating Committee, Chairman Natalie Webb, Donna Garner, Kaye Traer, Dyson Flanders, submit the following slate of persons for LAHS consideration:

OFFICERS 1997-1998	BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1997-1999	President-
Buddy Sullivan	Dyson Flanders	
Vice-President	Natalie Webb	Ellie Legg
Secretary	Mattie Gladstone	Patricia Skipper
Treasurer	Honey Fanning	

### **April LAHS Speaker to Discuss Savannah-Ogeechee Canal**

The 16-mile long antebellum canal which connected the Savannah and Ogeechee rivers was one of the most ambitious man-made waterways ever constructed in coastal Georgia and is the present-day focus of restoration for use by the public for recreational and educational purposes. The history of this interesting waterway will be presented at the April 17 meeting of LAHS by Mark Finlay, a history professor at Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah.

Mr. Finlay has his degree in history from Grinnell College and earned his Masters and Ph.D. degrees in History of Technology and Science from Iowa State

University. He has been a professor at Armstrong Atlantic since 1992 where he teaches American Economic History, History of Modern Germany, Technology and Culture and courses in world and American history. He has written numerous articles for scholarly journals and other publications and frequently lectures about the Savannah-Ogeechee canal and related subjects. The Savannah-Ogeechee Canal was completed in late 1830 and had a pronounced effect on the growth of the cotton trade in Savannah and the rice and lumber industry of tidewater Georgia. The Canal today is part of the Chatham County Park System and is being restored through volunteer labor and the contributions of corporate and private sponsors.

**LAHS FIELD TRIP--SATURDAY, APRIL 26--**  
**10:00 A.M.--SAVANNAH-OGEECHEE CANAL TOUR**  
**12:00 noon--LUNCH, CRACKER BARREL-- DUTCH TREAT**  
**2:00 P.M.--CENTRAL OF GEORGIA HISTORIC ROUND HOUSE**  
**GUIDED TOUR--\$3.00, per person**

Directions: From I95,Exit 16, Ga.204--Proceed WEST (opposite direction from Savannah) on Ga.204 for 2 1/4 miles to Savannah-Ogeechee Canal Sign.

Central of Georgia Historic Round House is located on Harris Street, which is one block SOUTH of the Savannah Visitors Center on Martin Luther King Boulevard.

The Canal Tour, which will be paid for by LAHS, is limited to thirty persons. Make reservations and sign up with Natalie Webb 832 6282.

**LAHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, MAY 15, 1997, 4:30 P.M.**  
**HAYNES AUDITORIUM, IDA HILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

The members of LAHS are welcome to attend the Board Meetings.

**LAHS MEETING, MAY 15, 1997, 7:30 P.M.**  
**HAYNES AUDITORIUM, IDA HILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**DUTCH TREAT SUPPER, 6:00 P.M. AT ARCHIE'S**

**MARCO POLO LIVES ON! Title of May LAHS Program**

Lloyd Flanders traveled to many Oriental Cities in December 1996. Using a slide presentation, she will share her travels and show the many changes that are happening in this very ancient part of the world. Lloyd Young Flanders is a native of McIntosh County. She was an honor graduate of Darien High School, graduated from Wesleyan College in Macon, Ga. and received her Masters in Education from Mercer University in Macon. Her Education Specialist Degree was from Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Ga.

After thirty one years teaching in Glynn County, Lloyd and her husband Dyson retired and moved to Darien. She continued teaching in special programs at Brunswick College Continuing Education, South Georgia College, Georgia Southwestern and in McIntosh County at both Todd-Grant and McIntosh Academy.

Her contribution to the community has been extensive through active participation in St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Ida Hilton Public Library, D.A.R., Coastal Georgia Historical Society, McIntosh County Rotary Club and Lower Altamaha Historical Society of which she is Past President.

**GRATITUDE FOR HOSPITALITY**

April--Dyson and Lloyd Flanders, Harriet Roberson  
May----Buddy Sullivan, Everett Moriarty

**CONFEDERATE HISTORY AND HERITAGE MONTH**  
**APRIL 1997**  
**CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY**  
**APRIL 26**

Zell Miller, Governor of the State of Georgia, has proclaimed the month of April 1997 as "**CONFEDERATE HISTORY AND HERITAGE MONTH**" in Georgia and encourages our citizens to become more knowledgeable of the role the Confederate States of America played in the history of our country.

For several years, LAHS member Everett Moriarty has honored, remembered and recognized the Confederate Veterans of McIntosh County. Each year on April 26, Confederate Memorial Day, a basket of flowers is placed on the Confederate Monument at the McIntosh County Courthouse, and over 120 Confederate Flags are placed on the graves of McIntosh County Confederate Veterans. The cemeteries where you may observe these flags are: St. Andrews, Ebenezer, Upper Mill, Holland, Plum Orchard, Young Island, McIntosh Family, Baillie Plantation, Reynolds Chapel, Robson Family.

**FORT KING GEORGE HISTORIC SITE**

When you enter the gates of Fort King George you feel a sense of the past, of going back in time. And you really are! You are going back to a time before Georgia ever became a colony.

In 1720, Colonel John Barnwell, a prominent South Carolina planter, was sent to London to argue before the Board of Trade the necessity for building a fort on the mouth of the Altamaha River. The reasons for constructing such a fortification were twofold- the first was to stop the French from expanding their North American holdings by use of the Altamaha River Delta. The second reason was to assert British claims against the Spanish who occupied Florida.

The Board agreed that the first priority was to raise an Independent Company of Foot to build and garrison a fort to command the mouth of the Altamaha River. This Independent Foot Company was drafted from the 41st Regiment of Foot, also known as the invalid regiment.

In May of 1721, Barnwell returned to Charles Town with the Independent Company. The soldiers were sick with scurvy, but the French intrusion down the Altamaha was too threatening for the British to wait for the soldiers to recover. Barnwell utilized South Carolina Provincial scouts, civilians, and slaves in constructing Fort King George on a low peninsula below the Altamaha Bluff.

In 1726, a fire destroyed the barracks and damaged the blockhouse and palisades. Two lookouts kept watch at Fort King George to warn South Carolina of raiders crossing the Altamaha until 1736, when Darien was settled.

The blockhouse reconstruction in 1988 was a cooperative effort between the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and the **Lower Altamaha Historical Society** of Darien. The present Fort King George blockhouse and surrounding palisades, earthworks, and moat are almost an exact replica of the fort as it was in 1721 when Colonel John Barnwell finished its construction. The modern exceptions are a hurricane proof foundation and stairways which replace the ladders originally used.

LAHS has been very active in the development of Fort King George Historic Site. Ken Akins, Superintendent of Fort King George Historic Site, extends a special invitation to all members of LAHS to visit the Site and familiarize themselves with the program.