

NEWSLETTER

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

November 1997

Vol.7, No.3

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.

**LAHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, NOVEMBER 20, 1997, 4:30 P.M.
HAYNES AUDITORIUM, IDA HILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

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

**LAHS MEETING, NOVEMBER 20, 1997, 7:30 P.M.
HAYNES AUDITORIUM, IDA HILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
Hospitality: Ellie Legg, Patty Skipper, Natalie Webb
DUTCH TREAT SUPPER, 6:00 P.M. AT ARCHIE'S**

Guest speaker will be LAHS president Buddy Sullivan who will discuss through slides and a lecture the history of the lighthouse on Sapelo Island and the maritime commerce of Darien and McIntosh County which depended on navigational aids such as the lighthouse and its attendant beacons.

Sullivan will also bring everyone up to date on the plans by the State of Georgia to restore the lighthouse in the near future, as well as plans to "re-light the light." Architectural plans and drawings will be on display to give an idea of the type of work that is planned for the historic lighthouse.

The brick 80-foot Sapelo Light was constructed under U.S. government contract in 1820. It served continuously as a coast and harbor light for Dobby Sound until 1905 except for the brief period when it was deactivated in the War Between the States. A new lighthouse (no longer standing) operated at Sapelo from 1905 to 1933 when it was deactivated.

Sullivan is the manager of the Estuarine Research Reserve on Sapelo Island for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and has been researching the history of the lighthouse since 1985. He has been directly involved with the efforts to restore the lighthouse since the project began in 1994. DNR is the lead agency for the lighthouse restoration, which is being funded through a federal ISTEPA grant and private donations.

**LAHS CHRISTMAS COVERED DISH DINNER PARTY
WEDNESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 10, 7:30 P.M.
BELVEDERE ISLAND PLANTATION CLUB HOUSE**

Decorated for Christmas, the Belvedere Island Plantation Club House will be the setting for the 1997 LAHS Holiday Celebration. The entree, table set up and drink will be provided. LAHS members and their guest are asked to make reservations and bring a Covered Dish. A sign up sheet for reservations and covered dishes will be available at the November meeting.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

November 7 & 8

**FORT KING GEORGE FALL ENCAMPMENT
DRUMS ALONG THE ALTAMAHA**

Friday, 10-4 pm
Saturday, 11-5 pm

In the Fall of 1721, Col. John Barnwell's men completed the first British outpost on the southern frontier. Thus, Britain now claimed this land that was once occupied by Spain, while the French threatened from the west. The British needed a buffer zone between these strong foreign powers and the Carolinas. This early 18th century international struggle will be commemorated when reenactors from all over the southeast gather at Ft. King George. Musket drills, cannon drills, Native American demonstrations, domestic skills, traders of 18th century wares and a Battle at 2 pm highlights the day's activities.

November 22 **BOOK SIGNING--Darrien City Hall** 2:00 P.M.-5:00 P.M.
THE DARIEN JOURNAL OF JOHN GIRARDEAU LEGARE, RICEGROWER
Edited, with an Introduction, by Buddy Sullivan
Publisher, City of Darien

LAHS will co-host with the City of Darien a Book Signing Reception for Buddy Sullivan on Saturday, November 22. The general public is invited. Enclosed in this Newsletter is a review of this book, which is Sullivans most recent publication.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAHS PUBLICATION LIST is enclosed in this Newsletter. This list has been updated to include the **HISTORIC MCINTOSH COUNTY AFGHAN** and **THE DARIEN JOURNAL OF JOHN GIRARDEAU LEGARS, RICEGROWER**. We invite the orders of you and your friends.

The new brochure titled, **LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY--Preserving the Past for Darien, McIntosh County and Georgia's Altamaha River Delta**, is included in this Newsletter. These brochures will be placed throughout Coastal Georgia to inform the public of our organization and purpose. It is requested that you share this information with your friends.

LAHS has received the **HISTORIC MCINTOSH COUNTY AFGHANS**. The initial orders are being filled. The distribution of the profit from the Afghans will be discussed at the November Board Meeting.

ST. ANDREWS CEMETERY

Compiled by Mattie Gladstone

This was part of Ashantilly and was the Spalding family burial grounds. Charles Spalding, son of Thomas and Sara Leake Spalding of Sapelo Island and Ashantilly, in 1870 deeded 4.5 acres to the St. Andrews Episcopal Church of Darien, Ga. It was to be a public burying ground and the Spalding fenced lot was to be maintained.

Many other McIntosh County family members are interred here: Kenan, Lachlison, Clarke, Dr. James ("Dr. Bullie") Holmes and his wife, Dunwody, McIntosh, McDonald, Atwood, Stebbins, Strain, Scmidt, Bell, O'Brien, Mack, Middleton, Tyson, Todd, Legare, Britt, Fisher, etc.

After 1938, the adjoining southern portion (to the right of the Gate) was added. In 1975 Robert A. Young deeded the new part, to the right of the lane from Highway 99 (Ridge Road), to the St. Andrews Episcopal Church for additional burying grounds. It has just recently been opened for use.

St. Andrews Cemetery is a beautiful, well-maintained cemetery and one of our most historic places.

WILLIAM A. WILCOX was orderly sergeant, Pulaski Volunteers, Eighth Georgia Regiment, CONFEDERATE STATES AMERICA. In 1872, he was living in Darien and was married to Edytha Churchill. Edytha was the daughter of W. W. Churchill and Emma Carpenter. William A. Wilcox and W. W. Churchill operated a Saloon and General Store on Broad Street. In the 1880's Wilcox built a house on First Street.

In the late 1870's a large portion of the Ashantilly property was sold to

individuals. It was about this time that the Wilcox bought "The Tabby House". "The Tabby House" was the name which the locals used when referring to Ashantilly, the Tabby house which Thomas Spalding built in 1820 and the Haynes family purchased in 1918. William G. Haynes, Jr. resides there today.

DARIEN McINTOSH COUNTY GEORGIA --AFGHAN

In the old, original section of St. Andrew's Cemetery, this being East of the main gate and road, is the 20'x24' CHURCHILL--WILCOX burial plat. This plat is surrounded by a 3' high decorative iron fence, with a gate. Just next to this fence is a CONFEDERATE SOLDIER marker. A Mausoleum, with an architecture facade, topped with a stature and urns, sits just off center in this plat. A single grave is in the front left corner of the plat. A stature and three above the ground graves are in the back left corner. This statue with the iron fence in the background is the picture which Linda Hawk has so artfully depicted on our Afghan to represent St. Andrew's Cemetery.

The statue is of a young child, holding a variety of flowers in her skirt. On the statue is inscribed:

Infant Children of
Editha & William A. Wilcox

And with the morn those
Angel faces smile
Which I have loved long
Since, and lost awhile.

The single grave is inscribed:

JOHN M. WILCOX
BORN
OCTOBER 22, 1881
DIED, OCTOBER 2, 1898

The marble door of Mausoleum is inscribed:

W. W. CHURCHILL
BORN
WROXTON, OXFORDSHIRE, ENG:
1811
DIED, DARIEN, GA.
NOV. 30, 1888

EMMA CARPENTER
WIFE OF
W. W. CHURCHILL
BORN, BANBURY, ENG. 1809
DIED, SAVANNAH, GA.
APRIL 4 1889

Wm. A WILCOX
BORN
IN IRWIN CO. GA.
MAY 17, 1839
DIED, DARIEN, GA.
JAN. 2, 1902

EDYTHA CHURCHILL
WIFE OF
W.A. WILCOX
1846 - 1918

Annie Gill attended the funeral and burial of Edytha Churchill Wilcox in 1918.