

NEWSLETTER

LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 1405
DARIEN, GEORGIA 31305

APRIL 1998

VOL.7, NO.5

Meetings are held at the Ida Hilton Public Library, Haynes Auditorium, on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 P.M. The Society extends a hearty welcome to all.

LAHS FIELD TRIP: April 4, 1998, 10:00 A.M. --MIGHTY 8th AIR FORCE MUSEUM
Contact Natalie Webb, 832 6282, for reservations and information.

LAHS MEETING, APRIL 16, 1998, 7:00 P.M.
HAYNES AUDITORIUM, IDA HILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
HOSPITALITY: Aline Franklin, Doris Rabb
DUTCH TREAT SUPPER, 6:00 P.M. AT ARCHIE'S

What is vernacular architecture? is the program that will be presented by E. G. Daves Rossell of Tybee Island. This talk will examine the history, characteristics, and meaning of vernacular architecture--the 95% of the built environment not exemplifying academic "high-style" design. Aspects that will be touched on include ethnic traditions in built form, the architecture of traditional American houses, as well as agricultural, industrial and commercial buildings; the influence of the automobile on the built environment, and issues of vernacular landscape. While particular focus will be placed on coastal Georgia, examples will be drawn from across North America. The talk will be fully illustrated with slides.

Anyone wishing to identify a vernacular building that they own or know of, is welcome to bring photographs and the speaker will endeavor to help after the program.

Daves Rossell has been teaching at Savannah College of Art and Design in the Department of Architectural History since the Fall of 1997. Before moving to Georgia, he taught and lectured at the California College of Arts and Crafts and at the University of California, Berkeley. He will receive his Ph.D. in Architectural History from the University of California, Berkeley this year. His double major in Architecture and History is from the same institution. In addition to being published, Rossell has delivered many research papers and received many awards in his field.

The election of LAHS officers for 1998-99 will be held at the April Meeting. The nominating committee presents the following slate for the memberships consideration.:

President	Buddy Sullivan	<u>Board of Directors, 1998-2000</u>
Vice-President	Natalie Webb	Berkeley Minor
Secretary	Mattie Gladstone	Everett Moriarty
Treasurer	Honey Fanning	Myrtle Newberry
		Kaye Traer

LAHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, MAY 21, 1998, 4:30 P.M.
HAYNES AUDITORIUM, IDA HILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

**LAHS MEETING, MAY 21, 1998, 7:00 P.M.
HAYNES AUDITORIUM, IDA HILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
HOSPITALITY: Donna Garner, Kaye Traer, Linda Hawk
DUTCH TREAT SUPPER, 6:00 P.M. AT ARCHIE'S**

Telfair Museum of Art is the program which will be presented by Hollis Koons of Savannah. Located on Telfair Square in Savannah is the Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences. The academy is the legacy of Savannah philanthropist Mary Telfair (1789-1875), opened in 1885 as the first public art museum in the Southeast. Built in 1818 to the design of William Jay for Alexander Telfair, this structure is perhaps Savannah's best-known example of Regency architecture.

Hollis Koons serves as the Curator of Education at the Telfair Museum of Art, where she develops, implements, and promotes public educational programs. She also coordinates and trains the museum's docents--volunteer educators who help visitors of all ages understand and enjoy the Telfair's permanent collection and special exhibitions. In addition to her duties at the Telfair, Koons is a part-time instructor of Art History at Armstrong Atlantic State University.

Ms. Koons received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Art History from the University of Georgia. Her Master of Arts degree in Art History is from the University of Notre Dame. She also studied at Oxford University, Oxford, England. In addition to her work in Savannah, she has also taught at Notre Dame and Lectured at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C

SPECIAL EVENTS:

April 18 FORT KING GEORGE--ALTAMAHA LEGACY 11-4 P.M.

Explore the legacy of the mighty Altamaha River and its importance to Georgia, the Southeast, and the nation. In the late 1800's the port of Darien became a major timber exporter of the world, boasting eight foreign consulates. The river will come to life with living history demonstrations from the sawmilling era and a symposium by noted scholars. At 2:00 P.M., Buddy Sullivan will speak on the History of Sawmilling in McIntosh County, 1865--1925.

FORT KING GEORGE HISTORIC SITE--ALTAMAHA RIVER CANOE EXCURSIONS

April 25---Honeygall Creek (Intermediate)----A beautiful 8 mile trip through hardwood swamps, old rice fields of Altama Plantation and Carr's Island.

May 2----Cathead Creek (Intermediate)----On this trip you will explore the old rice fields along Buffalo Swamp in McIntosh County.

For more information & registration contact :Fort King George State Historic Site, P.O. Box 711, Darien, Ga. 31305. telephone: 912-437-4770

SAPELO ISLAND

Sapelo Island in McIntosh County, is the fourth largest Georgia barrier island. This island was privately owned until recent years, all but 400 acres now belong to the State of Georgia. Its varied landscape is the scene of three major programs:

The 8,240 acre R. J. Reynolds State Wildlife Refuge, managed by Department of Natural Resources' Game and Fish Division.

The University of Georgia's Marine Institute, leases its land and facilities from the State.

The Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve was created by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in 1976.

Year round tours to Sapelo Island are explained in the enclosed brochure.

CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY--APRIL 26

Everett Moriarty will be placing some 130 Confederate 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.

ANNUAL MEETING--LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY--MAY 21, 1998

The fiscal year of LAHS is May 1 through April 30 each year. Enclosed is a membership envelope for your LAHS dues for 1998-1999. Jeanne Klippel was appointed by the president as the Membership Chairman for 1998-1999.

LAHS PUBLICATIONS DUE 1998

McINTOSH CEMETERY CENSUS--Mattie Gladstone, chairman. Plans are for the grant to be acquired, and this book to be published by the end of 1998.

THE HURRICANE AND TIDAL WAVE OF 1898 IN McINTOSH COUNTY, GEORGIA--Edited by Buddy Sullivan. This natural disaster effected this county one hundred years ago. Buddy Sullivan has chosen for all of us to remember this cataclysm with a collection of contemporary accounts about that day. LAHS will publish and distribute this book in October 1998.

Excerpt from *Georgia's Land of the Golden Isles* by Burnette Vanstory--Darien, circa 1830

Darien was a town of shady streets and comfortable houses with yards enclosed by picket fences and beautified by flowers, shrubs, and orange trees. Two of these houses were considered show places. One was Ashantilly, a mile or so east of town, built by Thomas Spalding for his mother, used after her death as winter home for the family, and later the property of the Spaldings' son Charles. The other was the beautiful Troup house upon the promontory known as Cathead, a serene tree-shaded point overlooking the river and marshes on the west side of Darien.

Built in the early eighteen hundreds, the Spalding house was named for the Barony of Ashantilly to which Thomas Spalding's father had been heir in Scotland. Designed by the Laird of Sapelo himself, Ashantilly was unique and charming. A two-storied house with one-storied wings, built wide and low to the ground, its spacious, beautifully proportioned rooms were ornamented with hand-carved wainscot, cornices, and mantels; the exterior was of expertly finished tabby, and at either end was an open portico with columns of Italian marble. An unusual architectural feature was the series of floor length windows across the front, while the entire back of the house was a solid wall-perhaps an early experiment in the modern idea of solar heating.

The Troup residence, a large house constructed, like Ashantilly, entirely of tabby, was designed by that gifted young Englishman, William Jay, who drew the plans for the famous Habersham and Owens-Thomas places in Savannah. An apprenticed architect in London, young Jay came to Savannah in 1818, and although less than twenty-five years of age he soon made a name for himself along the coast, and designed some of the most beautiful buildings in the region. The Troup house was the town residence of Dr. James McGillivray Troup, planter-physician, who was one of the most prominent men of McIntosh County. The Darien physician served as justice of the county, as commissioner of the McIntosh County Academy, as president of the bank, mayor of Darien, and as state senator.

It was one of Dr. Troup's daughters, Clelia, who married Daniel Murray Key, a grandson of Francis Scott Key. A son of this marriage, Francis Murray Key, grew up in the coastal region, and as a young man went to the Philippines and later to South America where he spent the rest of his life. In 1952 his son, Francis Scott Key, came to the United States and visited relatives and friends as he traveled along the Georgia coast.

TODAY, 1998:

Ashantilly is the home of William G. Haynes, Jr.. The estate is managed by a private trust, Ashantilly

Center, Inc.

The remains of the Troup house are in the vicinity of Ga 251 and I95.