

NEWSLETTER

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

January 1998

Vol.7, No.4

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.

CHANGE
LAHS MEETING TIME
7:00 P.M.

LAHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, JANUARY 15, 1998, 4:30 P.M.
HAYNES AUDITORIUM, IDA HILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

LAHS MEETING, JANUARY 15, 1998, 7:00 P.M.
HAYNES AUDITORIUM, IDA HILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
Hospitality: Tannis Cross, Myrtle Newberry
DUTCH TREAT SUPPER, 6:00 P.M. AT ARCHIE'S

"Melon Bluff, a 3000 acre Georgia nature and heritage preserve " will be the program that will be presented by Laura S. Devendorf of Coastal Georgia. The development of Melon Bluff, a former eighteenth century plantation, is the newest contribution of the Devendorf's to the people of Coastal Georgia and the Nation. Melon Bluff when completed will offer fifteen miles of Hiking Trails and fifteen miles of Riding Trails among the natural beauty of this Liberty County land which was originally developed in the eighteenth century.

Mrs. Devendorf, Co-owner and manager of Melon Bluff, will relate the history and future plans for this project.

Laura S. Devendorf's ancestor, John Stevens, donated the land for Midway Church. The Devendorf family live at Springfield Plantation , which was originally acquired by Laura's family in the eighteenth century by a Kings Grant. Laura Stevens Devendorf is a valuable asset to Coastal Georgia. She and her family developed Seabrook Village and she is President of Seabrook Village Foundation, Inc. She sits on the Boards of Land Conservation Trust Advisory Board, Colonial Coast Travel Assoc. and Liberty County Advisory Board.

Laura Devendorf is an accomplished Equestrienne and an international, licensed designer of Equestrian courses. She is a published Artist and Author.

**LAHS MEETING, FEBRUARY 19, 1998, 7:00 P.M.
HAYNES AUDITORIUM, IDA HILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
DUTCH TREAT SUPPER, 6:00 P.M. AT ARCHIE'S**

" Archives and Archeology at Epworth by the Sea" is the program that will be presented by Mary McCook. Mrs. McCook is director, Arthur J. Moore Methodist Museum and Library on St. Simons Island. Epworth by the Sea is a Christian retreat center owned and operated by the South Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church. It is located on the site of the turn of the eighteenth century Hamilton Plantation. Mrs. McCook will tell of the many archives housed in the Museum. She will also relate the past history and the current archeology being conducted at the site.

Mary McCook has been director of Arthur J. Moore Methodist Museum and Library at Epworth by the Sea since 1989.

**LAHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, MARCH 19, 1998, 4:30 P.M.
HAYNES AUDITORIUM, IDA HILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

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

**LAHS MEETING, MARCH 19, 1998, 7:00 P.M.
HAYNES AUDITORIUM, IDA HILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
DUTCH TREAT SUPPER, 6:00 P.M. AT ARCHIE'S**

"CSS GEORGIA, bottom of the river" is the program which will be presented by Judy Wood, Archeologist, US Army Corp of Engineers, Savannah District. Ms. Wood will give a slide presentation on the CONFEDERATE STATES SHIP GEORGIA, which lies at the bottom of the Savannah River near Fort Jackson.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

March 20-21 **FORT KING GEORGE--SPRING ENCAMPMENT** Friday 10-4 pm
 STRUGGLE FOR THE GEORGIA COAST Saturday 11-5pm

A living history portrayal of early 18th century life at Ft. 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, candle making and more. On Saturday, the encampment will be highlighted by a battle between the British and the Spanish at 2 pm. 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 that make advanced reservations.

April 4 **FORT KING GEORGE HISTORIC SITE**
 ALTAMAHA RIVER CANOE EXCURSION--CARR'S ISLAND (BEGINNERS)

Activities include: paddle instruction, nature walk, & a short trip to Carr's Island.

Carr's Island has the best preserved rice fields with dikes and canals in the Altamaha River.

Pre-registration is required. 912 437 4770

LAHS IS PROUD: " The Easy Ways of the Altamaha"
 by Reg Murphy
 President, National Geographic Society
 National Geographic Magazine--January, 1998

[Excerpt from GEORGIA HISTORICAL MARKERS: COASTAL COUNTIES--Cherokee Publishing Company]

ST. SIMONS ISLAND-----GASCOIGNE BLUFF

Throughout the ages Gascoigne Bluff has been the gateway to St. Simons Island. An Indian village was located here. Capt. James Gascoigne of HM Sloop-of-war Hawk, which convoyed the Frederica settlers on their voyage across the Atlantic in 1736, established headquarters for Georgia's naval forces and had his plantation here. In the Invasion of 1742 the Spaniards landed at this Bluff.

Live oak timbers for the building of USS CONSTITUTION, better known as "OLD IRONSIDES," and the other vessels of our first US Navy were cut on St. Simons and loaded here in 1794 for shipment North where the vessels were built.

During the Plantation Era these lands became the sea island cotton plantation of James Hamilton. A wharf here was the shipping center for the St. Simons plantation.

1874-1902 this Bluff was lined with great mills, where cypress and longleaf yellow pine timbers were sawed into lumber and shipped to all parts of the world.

The causeway built in 1924, connecting St. Simons with the mainland, has it terminus here.

In 1949 the Methodist Church acquired the upper part of the Bluff and established EPWORTH-BY-THE-SEA as a Conference Center.

(Located in small park upon entering St. Simons Island from the causeway. GHM 063-13,1956.)

LIVING ON THE GEORGIA TIDEWATER

In 1936, Bill Haynes returned to Ashantilly after several years of studying Art in New York City. Even though the Haynes family experienced a terrible fire at Ashantilly this year, Bill Haynes still found time to contribute to his community.

" 1833 Rice Field-Butler's Island " by William G. Haynes, Jr. is the 4' x 8' Poster Color painting, that hangs in the Haynes Auditorium at the Ida Hilton Public Library in Darien, Georgia.

This is one of three panels by Bill Haynes that were used as the Back Drop for the McIntosh County Booth in the 1936 Savannah Fair, sponsored by Savannah Post No. 135, American Legion. "Shrimp Boats on the Altamaha" and " 1733 Oglethorpe's Darien Settlement Map" were the other two panels that Bill painted for use at this Expedition. The McIntosh County Booth was edged in Pine Slabs.

A prize of twenty-five dollars was awarded to McIntosh County by the Southeastern Fair for an outstanding exhibit. The County Commissioners gave this money to Bill Haynes for his contribution to the booth.

Several years later the panels were visible again in the Darien USO. The Darien USO was housed in the National Guard Armory building. In 1989 this 1884 building was restored and now on the National Register of Historic Places, houses the Darien City Hall.

In 1987 , the people of McIntosh County proudly accomplished the new Ida Hilton Public Library with the Haynes Auditorium. The City of Darien had "1833 Rice Field-Butler's Island" framed and placed in the Haynes Auditorium.

On January 15, 1998, William G. Haynes, Jr. will sign his sixty-two year old painting.