

The Altamaha Echoes

Lower Altamaha Historical Society Newsletter April 2001

LAHS MEETING, APRIL 19, 2001, 7:00 P.M. –
St. ANDREW'S PARISH HOUSE
HOSPITALITY: Carolyn Baker, Helen Buck, Constance Johnson
DUTCH TREAT SUPPER, 5:45 P.M. at B & J PIZZA

The election of Officers for 2001 –02 and four Board of Directors for 2001 –03 will be held at the LAHS Meeting on April 19. In addition to the slate of Officers and Board of Directors submitted by the 2001 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 2001 Nominating Committee: Everett Moriarty, Chairman, submit the following slate of persons for LAHS consideration:

OFFICERS 2001 – 2002

President	Ed Meyers
Vice – President	Linda Hawk
Secretary	Ann Baggett
Treasurer	Ellie Legg

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2001 – 2003

Dyson Flanders
Constance Johnson
Jeanne Klippel
Don McClain

"GOD, DR. BUZZARD and the BOLITO MAN" will be the program presented by the author, Cornelia Walker Bailey. In the July 31 edition of *Publisher's Weekly*: the editors refer to Cornelia Walker Bailey as "a born storyteller with soft southern wit," who has written "a delightful and sincere memoir" about her life on Sapelo Island.

[Following is an excerpt from Cornelia Bailey's book which tells about *Dayclean*]: "My tale begins just before the rising of the sun, in that brief instant of time when the night clouds are being cleared away and the first rays of light are streaking across the sky. Dayclean, we call this when the day is new and the world is made fresh again.

If you had been standing on the white sand of this island at dayclean in 1803, or a little later, you might have seen a tall, dark-skinned man with narrow features, his head covered with a cap resembling a Turkish fez, unfold his prayer mat, kneel and pray to the east while the sun rose. This was Bilali, the most famous and powerful of all the Africans who lived on this island during slavery days, and the first of my ancestors I can name.

Today, you can see children rising in the dark of winter or the light of spring so they can board a large, white ferry run by the state of Georgia that takes them to the mainland where they go to school. Like myself, they are the descendants of Bilali. Some of us are still here two hundred years later."

Cornelia Bailey will autograph books which will be available at the meeting.

LAHS Board of Directors Meeting, May 17, 2001, 4:30 P.M. – "*Mudcat Charlie's Restaurant*"
First LAHS Board Meeting for 2001 – 2002. LAHS members, are always welcome.

Lower Altamaha Historical Society, Annual Meeting – May 17, 2001 – 7:00 p.m.

Hofwyl – Broadfield Plantation

HOSPITALITY Daneen Brinckmann, Jean Hawkins

DUTCH TREAT SUPPER, 5:30 P.M. at "*Mudcat Charlie's Restaurant*"

"**The History of Hofwyl – Broadfield Plantation**" will be the program presented by Bill Rivers, Georgia DNR, Superintendent – Manager, Hofwyl – Broadfield Plantation. Hofwyl, a thriving Rice Plantation of the nineteenth century was opened as a Historic Site by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources in 1979. William G. Haynes, Jr., Ashantilly, was the main instigator and encourager to the State for the creation of this site. Bill Rivers, will give us the history of this plantation with on the site observations and video presentation.

Bill Rivers was graduated from North Georgia College, Dahlonega with a degree in History. He served in the Paratroopers then with the First Infantry Division in Viet Nam as a Helicopter Pilot. After active duty, he was Instructor Pilot and Operation Officer at Fort Rucker, Alabama. In 1976, his first position with the DNR was at Amicalola Falls State Park as Assistant Superintendent. He came to Hofwyl as Superintendent – Manager in 1977.

Bill Rivers and his twin brother were raised in Atlanta. He remembers his first introduction to Coastal Georgia and McIntosh County. His grandfather was Earnest Rivers of Glenwood, Wheeler County, Georgia. Earnest Rivers owned a store and Lumber Business in Glenwood. He would send rafts of lumber down the Oconee to the Altamaha to Darien to the market. Earnest and his family would then drive to the coast, usually staying in Glynn County, to check on the rafts and handle the business. Earnest and his family would visit the Historic Sites and ride the county sightseeing. He also enjoyed yearly fishing trips to Shellman Bluff. Grandfather Earnest delighted in bringing his 11 year old twin grandsons to the Coast. He shared the history and beauty of Georgia with them.

Bill Rivers and his wife Gwen and their sixteen year old son live at Hofwyl Plantation.

Buddy Sullivan History Scholarship

Linda Hawk, chairman of Buddy Sullivan History Scholarship, announces the first recipient of this scholarship from LAHS. Jason Mann Frawley of Midway, Georgia, will receive fifteen hundred dollars, to be applied toward his graduate studies in History at Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, Georgia. Jason was graduated from Georgia Southern with a BA in History. His Grade Point Average for his undergraduate studies was three point seven (3.7). LAHS is proud to award these monies to Jason Frawley, to be applied toward his Masters Degree in History.

LAHS – Habitat for Humanity

LAHS will be assigned a specific Work Day for Habitat for Humanity. The specific date for this Work Day will be announced at the April 19 meeting. LAHS has been asked to do task which include painting, cleaning and feeding workers. LAHS member Chris Milner is president of McIntosh County Chapter of Habitat for Humanity.

CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY APRIL 26

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. Some of 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.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ----MARCH 2001

America's Pioneer Naturalist – Legacy of William Bartram – page 104

A Naturalist's Vision of Frontier America

WILLIAM BARTRAM

by Glenn Oeland

Photographs by Annie Griffiths Belt

Living on the Georgia Tidewater—William Bartram was born in Philadelphia in 1739. Bartram and American natural science came of age together. At age 34 he set out on a pioneering botanical survey of the South. Four years later he returned home to paint his discoveries and write his epic "*Travels*". By his late sixties he was esteemed the grand old man of nature study in America. Today his book *Travels* is considered a classic in the literature of exploration. Though written in antique prose and peppered with Latin plant names, the book remains a favorite with nature-loving, history-conscious people.

Below are some excerpts from *Travels* about Broughton Island and The Altamaha River: -----

Having completed my Hortus Siccus, and made up my collection of seeds and growing roots, the fruits of my late western tour, and sent them to Charleston, to be forwarded to Europe, I spent the remaining part of this season in botanical excursions to the low countries, between Carolina and East Florida, and collected seeds, roots and specimens, making drawings of such curious subjects as could not be preserved in their native state of excellence.

During this recess from the high road of my travels, having obtained the use of a neat light cypress canoe, at Broughton Island, a plantation, the property of the Hon. Henry Laurens, esq. I stored myself with necessaries for the voyage, and resolved upon a trip up to Alatomaha.

I ascended this beautiful river, on whose fruitful banks the generous and true sons of liberty securely dwell, fifty miles above the white settlements.

How gently flow thy peaceful floods; O Alatomaha! How sublimely rise to view, on thy elevated shores, you magnolian groves, from whose tops the surrounding expanse is perfumed, by clouds of incense, blended with the exhaling balm of the liquidambar, and odours continually arising from circumambient aromatic groves of illicium, myrica, lani and bignonia. -----

My barque being securely moored, and having reconnoitred the surrounding groves, and collected fire-wood, I spread my skins and blanket by my cheerful fire, under the protecting shade of the hospitable Live Oak, and reclined my head on my hard but healthy couch. I listened, undisturbed, to the divine hymn of the feathered songsters of the groves, whilst the softly whispering breezes faintly died away.

The sun now below the western horizon, the moon majestically rising in the east, again the tuneful birds became inspired, how melodious is the social mock-bird! the groves resound the unceasing cries of the whip-poor-will; the moon about an hour above the horizon, lo! a dark eclipse of her glorious brightness came slowly on; at length, a silver thread alone encircled her temples; at this boding change, an universal silence prevailed. —

But, before I leave the river Alatomaha, we will proceed to give a farther and more particular account of it. It has its source in the Cherokee mountains near the head of Tuglo, the great west branch of Savanna, and, before it leaves them, is joined and augmented by innumerable rivulets; thence it descends through the hilly country, with all its collateral branches, and winds rapidly amongst the hills two hundred and fifty miles, and then enters the flat plain country, by the name of the Oakmulge, thence meandering an hundred and fifty miles, it is joined on the east side by the Ocone, which likewise heads in the lower ridges

of the mountains. After this confluence, having now gained a vast acquisition of waters, it assumes the name of Alatomaha, when it becomes a large majestic river, flowing with gentle windings through a vast plain forest, near an hundred miles, enters the Atlantic by several mouths. The north channel, or entrance, glides by the heights of Darien, on the east bank, about ten miles above the bar, and running from thence with several turnings, enters the ocean between Sapello and Wolf islands. The south channel, which is esteemed the largest and deepest, after its separation from the north, descends gently, winding by M'Intosh's and Broughton islands; and lastly, by the west coast of St. Simon's island, enters the ocean, through St. Simon's sound, between the south end of the island of the name and the north end of Jekyll island. On the west banks of the south channel, ten or twelve miles above its mouth, and nearly opposite Darien, are to be seen the remains of an ancient fort, or fortification: it is now a regular tetragon terrace, about four feet high, and bastions at each angle, the area may contain about an acre of ground, but the fosse which surrounded it is nearly filled up. There are large Live Oak, Pines, and other trees, growing upon it, and in the old fields adjoining. It is supposed to have been the work of the French or Spaniards. A large swamp line betwixt it and the river, and a considerable creek runs close by the works, and enters of the river through the swamp, a small distance above Broughton island. About seventy or eighty miles above the confluence of the Oakmulge and Ocone, the trading path, from Augusta to the Creek nation, crosses these fine rivers, which are there forty miles apart. On the east banks of the Oakmulge, this trading road runs nearly two miles through ancient Indian fields, which are called the Oakmulge fields, they are the rich low lands of the river. On the heights of those low grounds are yet visible monuments, or traces, of an ancient town, such as artificial mounts or terraces, squares and banks, encircling considerable areas. Their old fields and planting land extend up and down the river, fifteen or twenty miles from this site.

After a few days I returned to Broughton island. The Cherokees and their confederates being yet discontented, and on bad terms with the white people, it was unsafe to pursue my travels in the north western regions of Carolina. And recollecting many subjects of natural history, which I had observed in the south of the isthmus of Florida, when on a journey some years ago with my father, John Bartram, that were interesting, and not taken notice of by any traveller, and as it was then in the autumn and winter, having reason to think that very many curious subjects had escaped our researchers, I now formed the resolution of travelling into East Florida; accordingly, I immediately wrote to doctor Fothergill, in order that he might know where to direct to me.

SAPPELO ISLAND

National Estuarine Research Reserve

Sapelo Island enables visitors to see virtually every facet of a barrier island's natural community, from the diversified wildlife of the forested uplands, to the vast expanses of salt marsh and the complex beach and dunes systems. The Visitor Center, located near the mainland ferry dock brings to life both the natural and cultural history of Sapelo, while guided tours of the island enable visitors to experience the African-American community of Hog Hammock, the University of Georgia Marine Institute, the Reynolds Mansion and Sapelo Island's 1820 Lighthouse.

SAPPELO ISLAND VISITORS CENTER 912 437 3224 in Meridian is open daily except Mondays. This interpretive center for Sapelo has much to offer. Reservations for the four hour regular tours of the island on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays and the six hour extended tour on the last Tuesday of each month are made here. Sapelo Island Visitors Center also has the information on special group tours and School Field Trips and privately owned and operated opportunities and activities at Sapelo Island. A Gift Shop which includes Books, Art Objects, Pictures and Posters and wearing apparel is available at the Visitors Center.

SAPPELO ISLAND NATIONAL
ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE
P.O. Box 15, Sapelo Island, Ga. 31327
Phone 912 485 2251, FAX 485 2141

The SINERR is managed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division, and is administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

FORT KING GEORGE STATE HISTORICAL SITE
P.O. Box 711-Darien, Ga. 31305----- 912 437 4770

PILLAGE & PLUNDER: THE STORY OF GEORGIA'S PIRATES

Saturday, April 23 - 10a.m. - 4 p.m.

Pirates played an instrumental role in the developing economy and commerce of colonial South Carolina. This event will be devoted to the life and times of these lively characters, the skills they possessed as seamen, the myths and legends that survive them, and the sub-culture they formed through a life at sea.

LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1405 -- Darien, Georgia 31305

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 P.M. The Society extends a hearty welcome to all.

LAHS OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2000-2001

President -	Ed Meyers
Vice-President -	Linda Hawk
Secretary	Ann Baggett
Treasurer	Honey Fanning
Past President -	Buddy Sullivan
Lou Nell Gibson	Dyson Flanders
Bob Hawkins	Constance Johnson
Myrtle Newberry	Jeanne Klippel
Ellie Legg	Don McClain
Board Member, Emeritus -----	William G. Haynes, Jr.

LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Corporate & Life Memberships

<u>Corp:</u> Sapelo National Bank, William Parker, President
The Book Shop, Inc., Harold & Virginia Hicks
<u>Life:</u> Malcolm & Muriel Bell - John Reehling
Mrs. Caroline B. Davis - Darien Telephone Co
John W. & Mary Dean - Gus & Marg Hallum
Alfred W. Jones - Chris & Ward Milner



Darien, Georgia 31305
P.O. Box 1405

Lower Altamaha Historical Society, Inc.