

Altamaha Echoes

Lower Altamaha Historical Society Newsletter June 2002

ANNUAL REPORT

It is that time of year when we have the opportunity to look back and report on the happenings and accomplishments of your society in the community of Darien and McIntosh County. Everyone in LAHS feels a deep commitment to the community as a whole as well as the preservation of the historical heritage of Coastal Georgia. In order to continue this rich tradition of community involvement, we request that you renew your membership as soon as possible and think of enrolling a member of your family or a friend who does not live in the area so that they can keep up with our historical heritage through our regular newsletter.

The publication of the McIntosh County Cemetery book went into its second printing and has proven to be an invaluable resource in genealogical research. We still have a few copies left in addition to other books listed on the enclosed list of LAHS Historical Publications.

The society installed a marker (the 2nd within 18 months) on the grounds of the Darien City Hall that describes the Burning of Darien in 1863. We anticipate installing other historical markers in the coming year.

LAHS has become committed to Habitat for Humanity a worthy community building cause. Many members gave their time and energy to the painting of the latest house. We will be doing this again in the coming year.

LAHS continues the commitment to scholarship recipient, Jason M. Frawley. Jason continues his graduate history studies at Georgia Southern University.

LAHS remains dedicated to the continued success of Fort King George through financial support as well as joint historical program participation. As part of this year's "Scottish Heritage Days" celebration, the March program featured Dr. Anthony W. Parker from the University of Dundee in Scotland. Dr. Parker discussed his book, "Scottish Highlanders in Colonial Georgia: the recruitment, emigration, and settlement at Darien."

As a part of our regular agenda, our annual summer picnic was on the grounds of Fort King George. We had exclusive use of the new Barracks facility for the picnic. The annual Christmas holiday party was celebrated at Belvedere Island Plantation.

Field trips this past year included a dinner tour of historic Fort Jackson in Savannah and an outing to Cumberland Island to tour the historic ruins of Dungeness, the Carnegie family home at the southern end of the island. The upcoming trip this fall will be a Ghost Tour of Laurel Grove Cemetery in Savannah. This will occur on the evening of November 2nd.

This past year William G. Haynes, Jr., Director Emeritus, one of the founder of LAHS, passed away. Malcolm Bell, a Lifetime Member and longtime supporter of LAHS, passed away. Lillian Schaitberger, one of the original members of the Board of Directors, is still very active in the society and served on the April hospitality committee. Buddy Sullivan, our past president and local Coastal Georgia historian, was elected to the position of Director Emeritus of LAHS.

It is through the spirit of volunteers that LAHS is able to achieve our dual mission of preserving our historical heritage as well as active community involvement. The officers and Board of Directors want to personally thank the Committee Chairman and all the members of their committees for making the past year a successful one.

It has been my pleasure to serve as the President of the Lower Altamaha Historical Society over the past two years and look forward to working with this fine organization in the future.

Please complete the enclosed membership renewal as soon as you can because it's through your membership that we are able to continue our dedication to the community and our historical heritage.

Thank you,

Ed Meyer

LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2002-2003
OFFICERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

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Vice-President Dinah Jackson
Secretary Ann Baggett
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2002 - 2004

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2001 - 2003

Dyson Flanders
Constance Johnson
Jeanne Klippel
Don McClain

Director Emeritus - Buddy Sullivan

LAHS Board of Directors Meeting, June 20, 2002, 4:30 P.M., St. Andrew's Parish House

LAHS MEETING, JUNE 20, 2001, 7:00 P.M. - St. ANDREW'S PARISH HOUSE

HOSPITALITY: Bill & Sally Smith, Don McClain

DUTCH TREAT SUPPER, 5:45 P.M., at B & J PIZZA

"Confederate Submarine H.L. Hunley, history, recovery, ongoing restoration" will be the program, presented by Randall B. Burbage. On February 17, 1864, The Confederate Submarine H.L. Hunley rammed her spar torpedo into the hull of the Union warship USS Housatonic, sinking her moments later. On August 8, 2000, the H. L. Hunley was raised amid a jubilant crowd and ferried to the Warren Lasch Conservation Center for one of the most complex conservation efforts in history. Pictures of the artifacts, recovered from inside of the Hunley, will be a part of the presentation.

Randy Burbage is a native of Charleston. He attended the University of South Carolina and College of Charleston. He is the owner of Randy Burbage Equipment Company. He is Chairman of Automotive Advisory Committee, Trident Technical College, Chairman of the Confederate Heritage Trust, Life member of Sons of Confederate Veterans and was appointed to the Hunley Commission in 1995 by Gov. David Beasley.

Randy, his wife Judith, their six children live in Hanahan, S. C. They are members of John Wesley United Methodist Church.

LAHS MEETING, JULY 18, 2002, 7:00 P.M.

FORT KING GEORGE HISTORIC SITE

POT LUCK PICNIC SUPPER, 7:00 P.M.

Fellowship Picnic Supper for LAHS members and guest. Bring a dish that will serve about eight people that does not require a knife for eating. LAHS will furnish Fried Chicken, Shrimp, drinks, paper products.

Fellowship and socializing will be the fare for the evening. There is no program planned.

LAHS MEETING, August 15, 2002, 7:00 P.M. – St. ANDREW'S PARISH HOUSE
HOSPITALITY: Martha Carney, Everett Moriarty
DUTCH TREAT SUPPER, 5:45 P.M., at B & J PIZZA

Nineteenth Century Maritime Operations – Port of Darien will be the program, presented by Gerhard Schwisor. The Altamaha River is the largest river in Georgia. The Port of Darien, located in the Delta of the Altamaha was the shipping port to the world for Georgia products of cotton, timber, naval stores, rice. Recommended reading: (chapter 8) *Early Days on the Georgia Tidewater* by Buddy Sullivan.

Gerhard Schwisor, owns a marine construction company in Savannah. A wooden ship builder for the past fifteen years, he has done dock construction in McIntosh County. Trained in Germany in post & beam construction, Schwisor was the builder/sub-contractor for the Officer Quarters and Guard Room recently constructed at Fort King George Historic Site. He is the owner and captain of the Barquentin sailing vessel *Barba Negra*, which was built in 1896. The *Barba Negra* was one of the Tall Sailing Ships in the 1976 Bicentennial Celebration in New York Harbor. Captain Schwisor and the *Barba Negra* worked with Jacques Cousteau on the Humpback Whales, Research Sea Project.

LAHS Field trip, November 2, 2002

LANTERN TOUR of LAUREL GROVE CEMETERY

Ghost from the graves will portray their life and times in their nineteenth century Savannah. LAHS members will travel by bus, from McIntosh County, to City Market in Savannah. After dinner at City Market Café, the group will be transported to the Cemetery by Trolley.

Bus and Trolley transportation, Cemetery Tour — \$25.00 per person

Your check is a firm reservation. This must be submitted by August 1, 2002.

Group Dinner at City Market Café — \$15.00 per person (optional)

Reservations may be made at LAHS, June or July meeting, or directly with

Bob & Jean Hawkins

home: 912 832 6588

130 Sapelo Circle

Jean, Southeastern Bank: 912 437 4141

Townsend, Ga. 31331

Georgia Historical Markers located on US17, 2 miles north of Fulshear.

RICE HOPE

Famous Rice and Indigo Plantation of Colonial and Revolutionary times. Rice Hope was the home of George McIntosh, son of John McIntosh Mer of Darien, and brother of General Lachlan McIntosh. George McIntosh was Official Surveyor for St. Andrew's Parish, Member of the Commons House of Assembly, Member of the First Provincial Congress of Georgia, Member of the Council of Safety During the Revolution, the home of George McIntosh at Rice Hope was burned and his slaves and stock run off by the British.

JOHN HOUSTOUN McINTOSH

John Houston McIntosh, son of George McIntosh, was born at Rice Hope, May 1, 1773.

When a young man, he settled in East Florida and became a leader of the U.S. citizens living there. He was appointed "Governor or Director of the Republic of Florida" in 1812. After a stormy career in Florida, he returned to Georgia, and in 1818 served in the Seminole War as General in the Militia.

In 1825, he began intensive cultivation of sugar cane on his plantation in Camden County, and there installed the first horizontal sugar mill ever worked by cattle power.

SAPALO 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.

SAPALO ISLAND VISITORS CENTER: 912-437-2224 in Mendenhall 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. A Gift Shop which includes Books, Art Objects, Pictures and Posters and wearing apparel is available at the Visitors Center.

SAPALO 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

CANNONS ACROSS THE MARSH
Thursday, July 4, 2002, 4 p.m.

Celebrate America's birthday at the fort. Artillery drills will be given all day on the hour with musket drills being demonstrated every half hour. Cool down with a piece of complementary watermelon after each demonstration.

LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Corporate & Life Memberships

Corp: Sapelo National Bank, William Parker, President
The Book Shop, Inc., Harold & Virginia Hicks
Coastal Georgia Historical Society

Life: Muriel Bell - Darien Telephone Co
Mrs. Caroline H. Davis - Gus & Mary Hallum
Alfred W. Jones - Chris & Ward Milner
John Reehling - John & Mary Dean
Enterprise Rent-A-Car

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.



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