

The Altamaha Echoes

Lower Altamaha Historical Society Newsletter September 2002

LAHS Board of Directors Meeting, September 19, 2002 – 4:30 P.M.
St. Andrew's Parish House.

LAHS Meeting, September 19, 2002, 7:00 P.M. – St. Andrew's Parish House

HOSPITALITY: Carolyn & Winn Baker, Everett Moriarty

Dutch Treat Supper, 5:45 P.M. at B & J Pizza

"Historical Georgia Hurricane Landfalls: 1804 – 1898" will be the program, presented by Al Sandrik, Senior Forecaster, National Weather Service Office in Jacksonville, Florida. Sandrik, was graduated from Florida State University, Tallahassee. After serving six years as a Navy meteorologist, he worked at the National Hurricane Center from 1991 – 1994, including the night that Andrew was making landfall. Al Sandrik has been in Jacksonville for eight years. He conducts extensive research on Atlantic hurricanes. The Atlantic hurricane, tidal wave of 1898 which effected the Georgia Coastal Counties with devastation, will be discussed.

LAHS Meeting, October 17, 2002, 7:00 P.M. – St. Andrew's Parish House

HOSPITALITY: Jeanne & Howard Klippel, Laura & Andre Nel

Dutch Treat Supper, 5:45 P.M. at B & J Pizza

Widow of Sighing Pines, (a historical novel) and *The Dodge Land Troubles, 1868-1923*, (a history book) will be reviewed by the author Jane Walker of McRae. Both books deal with the confiscation of over 300,000 acres of longleaf yellow pine in over 500 square miles of south central Georgia. Both books also focus on the rafting of the large timber to the port cities of Darien and St. Simons, where the Dodges had large sawmills. The histories of the piney woods area of the state and the coastal cities are closely intertwined because of the timber industry and the Dodge influence in the coastal towns as well as in the area of the piney woods. Books will be available at the meeting.

Jane Walker was born in Macon, Georgia. She attended Young Harris College in North Georgia and Wesleyan College in Macon. Her writing career started in 1994, after the death of her husband. She has two children and two grandchildren. They all belong to the McRae United Methodist Church.

LAHS Board of Directors Meeting, November 21, 2002 – 4:30 P.M.

St. Andrew's Parish House

LAHS Meeting, November 21, 2002, 7:00 P.M. – St. Andrew's Parish House

HOSPITALITY: Jean & Bob Hawkins, Martha Martin, Marian & Norm Stevens

Dutch Treat Supper, 5:45 P.M. at B & J Pizza

"Christophe Poulain DuBignon of Jekyll Island" will be the program, presented by Martha L. Keber, Ph.D. Dr. Keber's most recently published book *Seas of Gold, Seas of Cotton* is about the early days of Jekyll Island. In 1790, DuBignon was one of the original partners forming The Sapelo Company. In 1886, Poulain DuBignon's grandson sold Jekyll Island to the Jekyll Island Club. Books will be available at the meeting.

Martha Keber received her Ph.D. from Emory University in 1975. She has been Professor of History, Georgia College & State University in Milledgeville, Georgia since 1979. In addition to her many Publications and Editorial Experience, she was an Exchange Professor in both the UK and Brazil, and Lecturer on a Cruise Line in the Indian Ocean. Martha Keber has received many Honors and Awards.

LAHS Christmas Covered Dish Dinner Party
Wednesday Evening, December 11, 6:00 pm
Belvedere Island Plantation Club House

Decorated for Christmas, the Belvedere Island Plantation Club House will be the setting for the 2002 LAHS Holiday Celebration. Edgar and Claudette Moorhouse will be our host for the evening. Howard and Jeanne Klippel are the sponsors. The entree, table set up and drink will be provided. LAHS members are asked to make reservations and bring a Covered Dish. Maps and a sign up sheet for reservations and Covered Dishes will be available at the October and November meetings. For additional information, contact Edgar and Claudette Moorhouse, 912 832 5707

MEMBERSHIP Jeanne Klippel, chairman

LAHS needs your continuing support. Projects such as speakers' honorariums and the Buddy Sullivan Historic Scholarship Fund need your financial help in the way of dues. We value your membership.

RED STAR here means LAHS has not received your 2002 - 03 dues. This will be your last Newsletter if dues are not received by January 1, 2003.

LAHS Membership Envelope is enclosed for your convenience

Living on the Georgia Tidewater - The early days of the settlement of McIntosh County is told in the book *They Called Their Town Darien* by Bessie Lewis. Excerpts from the book are below. The first Highland Scots landed at Barnwell's Bluff, January 19, 1736. The second embarkation arrived in February, 1742. The Battle of Bloody Marsh was July, 1742. The Highland Scots prepared to *Live on the Georgia Tidewater*.

The Battle of Bloody Marsh was over - the harassment of the troops who had taken refuge in the fort and the final driving them from the island were almost anti climax.

But the Highlanders were not yet to settle in peace and start rebuilding their town. There were still threats of another invasion, and General Oglethorpe planned to stop it before it could begin. Taking a company of grenadiers, the Highlanders, a detachment of his regiment, the Georgia Rangers and a number of Indians, he started for Florida. Landing on the south side of the St. John's River, he surprised a large force of Spanish troops quartered at Fort Diego. Forty Spaniards were killed in this battle. The British forces went on to St. Augustine, but the Spaniards had been warned and did not come out to fight.

The troops returned to Georgia, this time to stay. The town to which the Highland soldiers returned after the Florida campaign must have been a sorry sight indeed. Almost neglected, except for the light work which could be done by women and children, the homes, gardens and the fields were in deplorable condition. To men less determined the situation would have been hopeless, and the years which led up to it considered lost.

Not so the Highlanders of Darien - this was their opportunity to start anew, to carry out the plans made by the first

embarkation seven years before.

Now the fighting men were home, and except for duty with the Rangers patrolling the out country, could attend to the business of making a living. They set to work to improve the farm lots adjoining the town, to plant and to raise stock. Once more the indentured servants were working with the pit saws, getting out lumber for the public use.

Grants of land in the district were being made, some of them for distinguished service in the war, and soon these tracts were being cleared for cultivation.

Lieutenant Sutherland was one of the first to receive a grant, recommended by General Oglethorpe. The tract given to the lieutenant still bears his name, though he traded it soon for acreage in another area, and there is no evidence that he ever lived at Sutherland's Bluff.

General Oglethorpe left Georgia for England in the summer of 1743, never to return, and the Highlanders missed his friendship and guidance.

Lachlan McIntosh and his younger brother, George, went to Charles Town, Lachlan to work in the counting house of Henry Laurens and George to attend grammar school.

The Highlanders were not a people to live contentedly in a village. They asked for and received grants in the district, and soon were moving out, clearing and cultivating plantations along the tide water rivers.

John McIntosh Mohr, returned at last from Spanish prison settled on Black Island, near where the highlanders landed when they came to Barnwell's Bluff, voluntarily giving up his other lands near Darien to obtain this. He was appointed Conservator of the Peace for Darien, and continued to be leader and mentor of his people. Three Clark brothers, who came to the colony in 1736 with their parents, were given a grant to the Great Thicket, a tract on the mainland facing the river, starting at a point opposite Black Island and including the lands now known as The Thicket.

Olden's and Barbours's Islands were granted as early as 1744, and under cultivation.

The second bluff on the Sapelo River (now Belleville) was an early grant to John McIntosh (son of Benjamin) one of whose grandsons was to be the Indian Chief, General William McIntosh.

Daniel Demetre, coxswain on the scout boat, received acreage on Dickenson's Neck (Harris Neck) and on Creighton Island, then called by his name.

Anne McIntosh, only surviving daughter of John McIntosh Mohr, was granted lands at the head of the Sapelo River, adjoining those of Hugh Morrison. Across the river to the north, lay the 1500 acre rice and indigo plantation of her brother, George McIntosh. Later, when she married Lieut. Robert Baillie, they lived at Saperlo Main (now Eulonia). A map of the Robert Baillie lands (including Anne's dower) dated 1773, shows the avenue of oaks which still shade the highway there.

On the Cow Horn Road (now Highway 99) lay the lands of William McIntosh - The Cottage (Pilson), Borlum and the Forest. William McIntosh also owned Fair Hope on the Sapelo River; later it was the home of his son Col. John McIntosh. Adjoining Fair Hope to the north was Mallow, where the eccentric Captain Roderick McIntosh (Old Rory) and his spinstor sister, Miss Winewood McIntosh, lived.

In the north end of the district, near the South Newport River, Donald McIntosh Bain lived, his grant including the swamp he called Strathlachlan, which held the "great Indian mound" within its bounds. To the east of his tract, between the South Newport and the Sapelo rivers, lay the plantation of Angus

McIntosh, adjoining that of Alexander McDonald. John Polson owned nearby Bro Neck, and Roderick McLeod lived in the same area.

Across the river from Darien, Lachlan McIntosh owned and planted rich rice islands, and managed Broughton Island for Henry Laurens of South Carolina. Other rice lands in the area were in absentee ownership, but those of Henry Laurens were probably the richest.

Sir Patrick Houston, father-in-law of George McIntosh, owned a 1000 acre plantation at Cat Head, west of Darien. Further up the river were the holdings of McClelland, McCullough, Lewis, and Fulton, who had come in from Williamsburg, South Carolina, in 1754.

At Turkey Camp Swamp, Norman McDonald had a large plantation, and north of him, on the Broad Road, lived Robert McDonald.

With all this removal, the center of population changed, and before 1750 the Meeting House (Presbyterian) was built near Houston Swamp about eight miles north of Darien. This served the district for many years, both for church services when a minister was available, and for meetings of a civil character.

In 1751 the inhabitants of the lower part of the district petitioned for a military guard to be placed at Barrington, the most important pass over the Altamaha River, to prevent Spanish and Indian depredations. There is no exact date on the beginning of construction of Fort Barrington. It seems to have been built in stages, probably as funds were available, and completed in the 1760's, when Jonathan Bryan applied for a grant of land on the Altamaha "2 or 3 miles above Fort Barrington." Lieut. Robert Baillie, who built the post, was in command there as early as 1764.

For several years there was a strong tendency to ignore the town of Darien, as though it did not exist. In 1751 there was a petition asking that the road from the Meeting House to Darien be discontinued, that instead a road from just south of the Meeting House to Cat Head be opened and kept up.

SAPELO 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.

SAPELO 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. A Gift Shop which includes Books, Art Objects, Pictures and Posters and wearing apparel is available at the Visitors Center.

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)

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: Murrel Bell - Darien Telephone Co.
Mrs. Caroline B. Davis - Gus & Marg Haltum
Alfred W. Jones - Chris & Ward Milner
John Reehling - John & Mary Dean
Enterprise Rent-A-Car

FORT KING GEORGE STATE HISTORICAL SITE

P.O. Box 711-Darien, Ga. 31305-----912-437-4770

THE FORT BY CANDLELIGHT

Saturday, October 19, 7pm - 10pm

Visit the fort during the evening hours and enjoy a unique candlelit atmosphere. Special programs on colonial military and civilian life will be conducted throughout the evening. Finish out the evening with a visit to our colonial tavern where refreshments and entertainment will be offered.

DRUMS ALONG THE ALTAMAHA

Friday & Saturday November 8, 9 - 11am - 5pm

Though it only stood for seven short years, 1724-1727, Fort King George represents a great contribution to our state's history. In this event we honor and commemorate it's significant legacy. A battle re-enactment will be fought and several other colonial demonstrations will be conducted throughout the day.

LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1405 - Darien, Georgia 31305

LAHS Officers & Board of Directors, 2002-2003

President	Ed Meyer
Vice-President	Dinah Jackson
Secretary	Ann Baggett
Treasurer	Ellie Legg

Carolyn Baker	Dyson Flanders
Bob Hawkins	Constance Johnson
Peyton Lingle	Jeanne Klippel
Myrtle Newberry	Don McClain

Director Emeritus - Buddy Sullivan



Darien, Georgia 31305

P.O. Box 1405

Lower Altamaha Historical Society, Inc.