

Altamaha Echoes

Lower Altamaha Historical Society January 2007

LAHS UNVEILS TWO NEW PUBLICATIONS

THEY CALLED THEIR TOWN DARIEN *by Besse Lewis*

Reissued by LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

With a new introduction by BUDDY SULLIVAN

Price \$15.00 - S&H \$2.00

The new introduction by Buddy Sullivan is a biography of Besse Mary Lewis 1889 - 1983. *Excerpts:*

Lewis's investigation of the Fort King George story firmly established her as an authority on the colonial history of tidewater Georgia, and led to the publication in 1932 of her first monograph, *The Story of Old Fort King George*, a detailed account of Barnwell and the establishment of the outpost. Her persistent efforts and continuing research in concert with the Georgia Historical Commission led eventually to recognition by the Commission of Fort King George as an official state historic site in the early 1960s with the subsequent development of a museum and other interpretive facilities at the fort.

Cotton Port on the Altamaha: A Historical and Archaeological Perspective of The Darien, Georgia Waterfront

Researched & Written by
BUDDY SULLIVAN
McIntosh County Historian

Published by
The Lower Altamaha Historical Society

Price: \$5.00 - S&H \$2.00

excerpts from *Cotton Port on the Altamaha:*

Also built in the 1815 time frame was the two-story structure on the upper bluff above the tabby ruins, on the southeast corner of Broad and Screven streets. Later known as the Strain building, the outer walls and foundations of this structure survived the fire of 1863, which destroyed most of Darien, and virtually all the waterfront district. The Strain building was occupied by local merchant and businessman Adam Strain after the Civil War.

Ordering Books

Remit payment and mail order to: LAHS - P.O. Box 1405 - Darien, Georgia 31305

Books are available in shops and stores in the Coastal Area. Send request for quantity purchases to LAHS

The 2003 Georgia Heritage Celebration
A Series of Programs of
The Georgia Historical Society
Oglethorpe Arrives at Darien

Friday, February 7, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. - Fort King George State Historical Site
co-sponsor Lower Altamaha Historical Society
chairman Everett Moriarty

Darien was founded by the Scottish Highlanders, who arrived at the site of Fort King George on January 19, 1736. On February 22nd, 1736, James Oglethorpe visited Highland settlers at the young town of Darien, and was received with much fanfare. He donned a kilt and slept on the ground with his troops.

On February 7, 2003, at 10:00 a.m., Oglethorpe will arrive by boat to greet all townspeople and at 10:30 a.m., a presentation "Oglethorpe and the Clamorous Malecontents" will be presented. The day events will culminate in an evening Scottish meal, hosted by Oglethorpe himself, at the Fort King George barracks.

For more information, call 912-437-4770. Free and open to the public. The dinner will require reservations and a fee will be charged.

LAHS TO DEDICATE HISTORICAL MARKERS

Saturday, January 25, 2003

10:00 a.m. Sapelo Visitors Center - Meridian, Ga.

11:00 a.m. Welcome Center - Darien, Ga.

LAHS will dedicate two Historical Markers in Darien and McIntosh County on Saturday, January 25. Following the unveiling ceremony for The Port of Darien, a reception will be held at the Welcome Center, Darien. These markers are possible through the Historical Marker Program of the Georgia Historical Society. The text for the markers are below:

Sapelo Island

Situated five miles to the east, Sapelo was inhabited by Guale Indians 5,000 years ago and was the site of a 16th century Franciscan mission. During his ownership of Sapelo from 1802-1851, Thomas Spalding was a leading planter of Sea Island cotton and sugar cane. Slave descendants still live on the island at Hog Hammock. Sapelo was owned by automotive pioneer Howard E. Coffin, 1912-1934, and tobacco heir Richard J. Reynolds, 1934-1964. The University of Georgia Marine Institute opened on Sapelo in 1953. The State of Georgia bought the island in 1969.

Erected by the Georgia Historical Society, the
Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve and
the Lower Altamaha Historical Society

The Port of Darien

Situated 10 miles from the Atlantic near the mouth of the Altamaha River, Darien attained prominence as a seaport in the 1820s. From this water front, rice and upland cotton from Georgia's interior were shipped. After the Civil War, Darien became an international timber market. Waterfront sawmills processed pine and cypress rafted down the Altamaha as Darien was the leading timber center on the U.S. east coast from 1870 to 1900. With the decline of the timber trade, Darien turned to the commercial harvest of seafood, and was homeport to a large shrimp fleet by the 1940s.

Erected by the Georgia Historical Society and the
Lower Altamaha Historical Society

LAHS Board of Directors meeting, January 16, 2003, 4:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Parish House

LAHS MEETING, JANUARY 16, 2003, 7:00 p.m. – ST. ANDREW'S PARISH HOUSE
HOSPITALITY: Aline Franklin, Bonnie Marmo
DUTCH TREAT SUPPER, 5:45 p.m. at B&J PIZZA

NO ENEMY BUT TIME by William C. Harris, Jr. will be the program presented by the author, Bill Harris of Savannah. With his best selling novel, *Delirium of the Brave*, Harris created a buzz that started in Savannah and spread across the nation. *No Enemy But Time* brings back beloved characters from that book in a saga that intertwines espionage, murder, Catholicism, loyalty, and ultimately, the high cost of betrayal.

William C. Harris, Jr. a native of Savannah, is a graduate of Georgia State University and Temple University's College of Podiatric Medicine. He practices podiatry in Savannah, where he lives with his wife, Pamela, and three daughters. Books will be available at the meeting.

LAHS MEETING, FEBRUARY 20, 2003, 7:00 p.m. – St. ANDREW'S PARISH HOUSE
DUTCH TREAT SUPPER, 5:45 p.m. at B & J PIZZA

The program will be announced at a later date.

LAHS Board of Directors meeting, March 20, 2003, 4:30 p.m. – St. Andrew's Parish House
LAHS members are welcome to attend Board meetings.

LAHS MEETING, MARCH 20, 2003, 7:00 p.m. – St. ANDREW'S PARISH HOUSE
DUTCH TREAT SUPPER, 5:45 p.m. at B & J PIZZA

HISTORIC SAILING – SOUTHEASTERN COAST, Coastal Waters and Sailing Ships During Three Centuries of Commerce and Wars, will be the program presented by Joseph S. Jurskis. From the Revolution War, until after the beginning of the twentieth century, numbers of coasting vessels—sloops, schooners and brigs—frequented the ports of the southeastern Atlantic Ocean.

After the War of 1812, regular boat traffic was established between the Georgia state capitol at Milledgeville on the Oconee River and Darien at the mouth of the Altamaha. Boatloads of short-staple cotton began to arrive in a steady flow at Darien for shipment to the larger markets at Savannah, Charleston and points in the northeast. Darien's commercial importance reached a point by the mid-1820's that branches of cotton factorages in Charleston, Savannah and Liverpool had been opened on or near the Darien waterfront. Some of the other products being shipped from Darien were: sugar, molasses, rum, rice, Sea Island cotton, timber, naval stores.

Joe Jurskis lives in Darien. He is owner, manager, instructor of **BLACKBEARD SCHOOL OF SAILING & NAVIGATION**.

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 Manston and Sapelo Island's 1820 Lighthouse.

SAPELO ISLAND VISITORS CENTER 912 437 3224 10 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
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Life: Muriel Bell - Darien Telephone Co.
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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

OGLETHORPE AT DARIEN

Friday, February 7, 2003 - 10a.m. - 12 noon

SCOTTISH HERITAGE DAYS

Saturday, March 22, 2003 - 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

In 1736, General James Oglethorpe brought a group of Scottish Highlanders to Southeast Georgia. Valued for their tenacity on the battlefield these men were commissioned along with their families, to defend the southern frontier from possible Spanish incursions. In this event we pay tribute to those brave Scots who settled Darien and were so instrumental in expelling the Spanish as a threat to Britain's hold over this area. A reenactment of the Battle of Bloody Marsh will be conducted along with other festivities related to Scottish culture.

LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1405 - Darien, Georgia 31305

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Darien, Georgia 31305
P.O. Box 1405

Lower Altamaha Historical Society, Inc.