

# Altamaha Echoes

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Lower Altamaha Historical Society Newsletter September 2003

## **"Historic Overview of Darien and McIntosh County"**

instructor- Buddy Sullivan

Six Wednesday Evenings, November 5 through December 17, 6pm til 8pm

(There will not be a class during Thanksgiving week)

Ida Hilton Public Library, Darien, Georgia

sponsor: LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 1405  
Darien, Georgia 31305

\$45.00 fee

Your reservation for this class will be confirmed with an Entrance Ticket upon the receipt of the \$45.00 fee. Make check payable to LAHS. Reservations will be accepted at LAHS September and October meetings or may be mailed to the above address.

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LAHS MEETING, SEPTEMBER 18, 2003, 7:00 P.M. St. ANDREW'S PARISH HOUSE  
DUTCH TREAT SUPPER, 5-45 P.M. at B&J PIZZA

**"Potable ground water in Southeast Georgia"** will be the program, presented by Jim Harris. Jim will review the historic source of water from the Floridian Aquifer, the increase in withdrawals resulting in salt water intrusion into the Aquifer.

Jim Harris is an engineer with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division. He has been with EPD for 10 years, with the last 6 of those years in the Brunswick office. Before he came to Brunswick, he worked in the Drinking Water Program in Atlanta. He is the compliance officer for several Coastal counties, inspecting State regulated facilities to ensure that they are in compliance with their permit requirements. He is also responsible for approving new water and sewer facilities in Southeast Georgia.

Jim Harris was graduated from the University of Illinois, with a BS in Civil Engineering. He worked in the petroleum industry, with domestic and international assignments, prior to working with the EPD. He is married and has one son who lives in Austin, Texas and a daughter who lives on St. Simons Island.

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## **"DAY ON SAPELO "**

Tuesday , October 7, 2003

Meridian Dock, departure, 8:00 am, return, 3:00 pm

Buddy Sullivan will lead the tour of Sapelo Island, with the historic explanations of the North End ,including Chocolate and the Church and points of interest.

Heavy Lunch with Mrs. Walker

Lower Altamaha Historical Society Field Trip

\$25.00 per person

LAHS September 18, meeting is deadline for reservations

**Living on the Georgia Tidewater** - Roswell King is a familiar name in the early history of Tidewater Georgia. Excerpts below are from **"All Under Bank": Roswell King, Jr., and Plantation Management in Tidewater Georgia 1819-1854** - Edited with an Introduction by BUDDY SULLIVAN

Roswell King, Sr. (1765-1844), son of Timothy King and Sarah Fitch King of Windsor, Connecticut, had migrated in 1789 to Darien, Georgia, where he became active in lumbering, contracting and the brokerage of cotton. In 1792, King married Catherine Barrington, daughter of Josiah and Sarah Williams Barrington of San Savilla Bluff on the Altamaha upriver from Darien. The Kings' first child was Roswell, Jr., born at Savannah on April 2, 1796. Two other King sons, Barrington King (1798-1866) and William King (1804-1884), also became active in the social, cultural, religious and business affairs of tidewater Georgia during the antebellum period.

In 1802, Major Butler engaged the services of the energetic and enterprising Roswell King, Sr., as the resident manager of his Georgia plantations (Butler and his family resided in Philadelphia following years of prominence in the social and political affairs of coastal South Carolina). The eminent Savannah historian, Malcolm Bell, biographer of Major Butler, attributes the elder King with considerable talents as an agriculturist but notes that he was sadly deficient in the management of the 959 Butler slaves for which he was responsible during his 17-year tenure. "The elder King's untiring efforts and capability as a planter did much to make Major Butler a rich man, a goal Roswell King pursued with relentless determination that warped his sense of decency in his relations with the hundred of black slaves he controlled," Bell notes. "(But) his departure from the Butler estate was not friendly. Major Butler believed his manager responsible for the loss of slaves during the War of 1812. Second generation Butlers (Thomas Butler and his sisters, Frances Butler and Sarah Butler Mease) believed him dishonest and self-serving. (King's) lack of compassion in acting as a surrogate owner for Major Butler may have sprung from a

subconscious reaction to the miscegenation he and his son (Roswell, Jr.) practiced at Hampton and Butler's Island."

In 1819, King Sr. departed the Major's employ under acrimonious circumstances, after which he pursued his sawmill venture in Darien in addition to his increasing activity as a director of the Bank of Darien. With his son, Barrington, the elder King and other members of his coastal Georgia circle migrated inland to Cobb County where, in 1836, they founded the towns of Roswell and Lebanon, near the Chattahoochee River and present-day Atlanta. King, assisted by his son, established flour mills at Lebanon and, by 1837, had also begun a thriving textile mill powered by the waters of Vickery Creek at nearby Roswell. The Roswell Manufacturing Company received its incorporation in 1839 with Barrington King as president. His home, Barrington Hall, was built in Roswell in 1842 and is regarded as one of the outstanding examples of Greek Revival architecture in upper Georgia.

The pioneering Kings laid out the town of Roswell and included an academy and churches for Presbyterian and Methodist congregations. The new town was originally comprised of six families from tidewater Georgia, all of whom were closely allied through long friendships. In addition to Roswell King and Barrington King, there were James Stephens Bulloch (1793-1849), John Dunwoody (1786-1858), James Smith (1766-1854) and the Rev. Nathaniel Alpheus Pratt (1796-1879), the latter being the Presbyterian pastor of the church in Darien then serving in a similar capacity at the Roswell Presbyterian Church founded in 1839. Roswell King, Sr. died on February 15, 1844 and was buried in the Presbyterian cemetery in the town which bore his name.

LAHS MEETING, OCTOBER 16, 2003, 7:00 P.M. – St. ANDREW'S PARISH HOUSE  
DUTCH TREAT SUPPER, 5:45 P.M. at B&J PIZZA

"Show and Tell" Back by popular demand, LAHS members and their guest are requested to bring pictures, letters, art objects, historic objects, accounts of history, etc. to share with all. Your contribution is important to make this an evening of learning, understanding, and fellowship among LAHS members.

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**LAHS Board of Directors Meeting, November 20, 2003, 4:30 P.M. –**  
St. Andrew's Parish House  
LAHS members, are always welcome

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

"Georgia: A State History, 1733 – 2000" will be the program, presented by Buddy Sullivan. Buddy's newest book is the first Georgia History to be published in twenty-five years. This state history is based on the archives and collections at the Georgia Historical Society in Savannah. The Georgia Historical Society sponsored and published the book. This is an overview of Georgia, covering all areas and aspects of early settlement, Revolutionary War, plantations, agriculture, transportation and industry, Civil War, nineteenth and twentieth century politics, Atlanta Olympics.

Buddy Sullivan is Director Emeritus of Lower Altamaha Historical Society. He is Director of the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve. Buddy is author of twelve books on various aspects of coastal Georgia history, including comprehensive histories of McIntosh and Bryan counties. Also to his credit are four pamphlets, and various articles and papers. Buddy will be autographing books at the meeting.

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***LAHS Christmas Covered Dish Dinner Party***  
***Thursday Evening, December 11, 5:30 pm***  
***Belvedere Island Plantation Club House***

Decorated for Christmas, the Belvedere Island Plantation Club House will be the setting for the 2003 LAHS Holiday Celebration. Edgar and Claudette Moorhouse will be our host for the evening. 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 September, October and November meetings.

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**MEMBERSHIP:** Jeanne Klippel, chairman

LAHS needs your continuing support. Projects such as speakers' honorariums, Buddy Sullivan Historic Scholarship Fund, Historical Markers (4 markers within three years), Financial contributions to Fort King George and Ida Hilton Public Library, and Publications (three books within recent years, four issues of Altamaha Echoes yearly), need your financial help in the way of dues and contributions. We value your personal membership. We request your help in acquiring Corporate memberships for LAHS (Corporate membership – \$100.00 annual.)

## 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: Muriel Bell	Darien Telephone Co.
Mrs. Caroline B. Davis	Gus & Murg Hallum
Alfred W. Jones	Chris & Ward Milner
John Rechling	John & Mary Dean
Everett Mortarty	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 18<sup>th</sup> 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

Saturday November 8<sup>th</sup> 11 am - 5 pm

Though it only stood for seven short years, 1721-1727, Fort King George represents a great contribution to our state's history. In this event we honor and commemorate its significant legacy and Great Britain's military occupation of the Southeast. A battle reenactment will be fought and several other colonial demonstrations will be conducted throughout the day.

### ALTAMAHA CANOE EXCURSIONS

October 11, 2003 - Canhead Creek (beginners)

November 22, 23, 2003 - Lewis Island (intermediate)

Altamaha Overnighter -

### LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1405 - Darien, Georgia 31305

LAHS Officers & Board of Directors, 2002-2003

President	Dinah Jackson
Vice-President	Dyson Flanders
Secretary	Betty Cleveland
Treasurer	Elle Legg

Carolyn Baker	Ann Baggett
Bob Hawkins	Oscar Bruckmann
Peyton Lingle	Howard Klippel
Myrtle Newberry	Kelly Spratt
Past-President: Ed Meyer	
Director Emeritus - Buddy Sullivan	



Darien, Georgia 31305

P.O. Box 1405

Lower Altamaha Historical Society, Inc.