

Altamaha Echoes

Lower Altamaha Historical Society Newsletter January 2004

LAHS Board of Directors Meeting, January 15, 2004, 4:30 pm – St. Andrew's Parish House

LAHS Meeting, January 15, 2004, 7:00 P.M. – St. Andrew's Parish House

Dutch Treat Supper, 5:45 p.m. at B & J Pizza

"Old Meeting House Project – Georgia's Lost Fort" will be the program, presented by Michael P. Higgins. Both of these locations have significant historical importance to the county, the state and the nation. Michael will explain the significance of these unique sites. An update on the Old Meeting House Project and the planned expedition to locate Fort McIntosh on the Satilla.

Michael P. Higgins, was born in Chicago. His family moved to New Jersey, and then South Carolina. He holds degrees from Oglethorpe University, Atlanta, Ga. and The State University of New York Maritime College at Fort Schuyler, New York. Michael was a founder of the Confederate Navy Historical Society and served as Project Manager for the CSS *Alabama* project. He served as an advisor to the U.S. Department of State, Office of Ocean Law & Policy. His efforts resulted in a treaty between the United States and France, with France respecting U.S. title in the wreck of CSS *Alabama* and her associated artifacts, and the return of her artifacts to the United States. He sailed on oceanographic research ships for Columbia University and Duke University as scientific crew, and later for American President Lines on containerships and Military Sealift Command tankers. He served as a shore captain and port manager for Wallenius Lines.

Michael and his wife, Cynthia live in Richmond Hill, Georgia.

Georgia Historical Marker – Located on US17 – 8.1 miles north of Darien

OLD MEETING HOUSE

Two hundred yards west of this spot stood the "Old Meeting House", built before 1750 to serve the Scottish Presbyterians of the District of Darien. A landmark in Colonial days, it was in use until after the Revolutionary War, both as a church and as a meeting place for the citizens of St. Andrew's Parish on important occasions. It was here that the "Darien Committee" met on January 12, 1775 to choose their delegates to the Provincial Congress at Savannah, and to adopt the six Resolutions which are today among our treasured Revolutionary documents.

LAHS Meeting, February 19, 2004, 7:00 pm – St. Andrew's Parish House

Dutch Treat Supper, 5:45 pm at B & J Pizza

"OUT OF SAVANNAH – DOG COMPANY, USMCR" will be the program, presented by the author, James Edward McAleer. In 1950 Communist North Korea invaded South Korea. Several Savannah reserve units were called up to assist South Korea. One of these was Dog Company, 10th Infantry Battalion, United States Marine Corps Reserves. Dog Company consisted of 182 men. McAleer tells many of the experiences of these individuals.

James Edward McAleer was born and raised in Savannah, Georgia, and enlisted in the United States Marine Corp on November 12, 1944, at the age of 17. Upon his discharge after WWII, he returned to Savannah, completed high school, and was in school when activated with Dog Company, and served in Korea. He has practiced law in Savannah for fifty years. Jim and his wife Grace have four children.

BOOKS ON THE BLUFF will have books available at the meeting.

Living on the Georgia Tidewater—The Mill Chimney at Butler Island Plantation is a Landmark of Darien, Georgia. One hundred and seventy one years ago, this steam powered threshing mill was constructed on Butler Island in the Altamaha Delta. In the introduction to *"All Under Bank"*, Buddy Sullivan gives the account of this chimney. Below, are excerpts from this book.

Most of the rice shipped to the Savannah and Charleston markets from the Georgia plantations was in the form of "rough rice," or rice that had been threshed, winnowed and cleaned of chaff and straw, but not pounded (polished). On some plantations, rice was threshed by means of beating the stalks with flail sticks on elevated threshing floors. Later, many plantations acquired steam-powered threshing engines to greatly expedite the process of preparing rough rice for shipment. Threshing and winnowing on the plantation began in early September and, in the case of rough rice, shipments to market were expedited in stages throughout the fall and early winter.

The most prosperous rice planters usually equipped their plantations with a pounding mill to further process the crop. This entailed a final stage, the preparation of the rough rice into "clean rice," or rice that has been pounded to remove the outer shell then polished by a system of steam-powered stone pestles. However, this equipment was prohibitively expensive for most planters and only the largest of the plantations had their own pounding mills. Roswell King, Jr., was a proponent of on-site, steam-powered, pounding mills, feeling they improved the plantations's productivity and efficiency.

Pounding mills employed tidal power until the introduction of steam engines for mill operations during the decade of the 1820's. Meanwhile, threshing continued to be done by the laborious hand-flailing method on threshing floors. Greatly increased production resulting from the development of steam pounding mills placed unacceptable constraints on the hand threshers to keep pace, thus mechanical processes were soon developed for the threshing stage to maintain balanced processing levels. Consequent upon these technological advances in production was the need for increased cooerage to accommodate the growing amounts of processed rice. More slaves were thus employed in the building of wooden barrels (tierces) for the storage of polished rice as it came from the pounding mill.

In 1832, King successfully prevailed upon Thomas Butler to allow him to acquire a steam engine to power his rice threshing mill and pounding machinery at Butler's Island. This mill was built near the overseer's house adjacent to the river landing at Butler's Island and was ready for operation by late 1833. Because the ground at the mill site was subject to periods of wetness, even occasional flooding, since it was at times below the level of the adjacent river, King employed the slaves in the emplacement of thick pilings in the soil to provide greater stability for the steam engine. -----

Planters had the option of shipping their rough rice to Savannah where it was sold in bushels of 45 to 50 pounds, and then pounded at mills on the Savannah River, or they contracted neighboring planters to pound their rice for a fee. Clean rice usually brought greater profits to the planter. This rice was shipped in large casks, or tierces, each holding about 600 pounds. -----

Oglethorpe Arrives at Darien

Friday, February 13, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. –

Fort King George State Historical Site

co-sponsors: Lower Altamaha Historical Society,

Reggie Jackson

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 13, 2004, at 10:00 a.m., Oglethorpe will arrive by boat and greet and talk with all of the townspeople. 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 Board of Directors Meeting, March 18, 2004, 4:30 pm – St. Andrew's Parish House

LAHS Meeting, March 18, 2004, 7:00 pm, St. Andrew's Parish House

Dutch Treat Supper, 5:45 pm at B & J Pizza

"Dinah on Scottish Heritage" will be the program, presented by Dinah Jackson. Dinah has a large collection of documented stories of the early Scottish families of McIntosh County. She will share a few of these stories, many which are unrecorded. The love and culture of the allied families that were the mainstay of McIntosh County is prevalent in Dinah. She has professionally researched the stories and will publish at a later date. From early childhood, Dinah heard the oral history of her family from her Great Aunt Sarah Alice Dean (1896–1980). Sarah Alice Dean's mother was Mary Elizabeth McIntosh. During Dinah's childhood, Aunt Alice, moved to Macon to live with Dinah's family. Every summer and holiday was spent at Belleville with Grandfather Samuel A. Dean, Sr.

Dinah Dean Jackson was born and raised in Macon, Georgia. She joined the US Navy in 1963. Her training to be an Air Traffic Controller was at GLYNCO in Brunswick, Georgia. She was stationed both in Brunswick, Maine, and Quonset Point, Rhode Island. Her study of history is an ongoing activity. Dinah is president of Lower Altamaha Historical Society, active in the McIntosh Family Association, active in Darien United Methodist Church. Bill and Dinah Jackson moved to Springfield Plantation in 1999. They have four children, two grandchildren.

Scottish Heritage Days

First Presbyterian Church Darien, Georgia

Sunday, March 28, 2004 – 11:00 a.m.

The Kirkin' 'O' the Tartans

The Kirkin' is an ancient Scottish ceremony whereby the clans annually rededicated themselves to God. The tartan as a symbol of the extended family – was blessed in the kirk (church) at the time of rededication.

The ceremony had its beginning in this country when the late Reverend Dr. Peter Marshall, a native of Scotland, preached a series of sermons in support of the British War Relief. His sermon on May 2, 1943, was entitled "Kirkin' o' the Tartans." Dr. Marshall, was pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C., and it was there that the first Kirkin' was held. The service rapidly spread over the United States and Canada, and is enjoyed today in every part of the world.

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
Mrs. Caroline B. Davis
Alfred W. Jones
John Reehling
Everett Moriarty
Andre & Laura Nel

Darien Telephone Co.
Gus & Marg Hallum
Chris & Ward Milner
John & Mary Dean
Enterprise Rent-A-Car

Jim & Barbara Bruce
P.O. Box 20652
St. Simons Ga. 31522

FORT KING GEORGE STATE HISTORICAL SITE

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

Internet Site: (search) Fort King George

Oglethorpe at Darien - Friday, February, 13, 2004

10:00 am - The arrival of James Oglethorpe by boat.

Oglethorpe greets the townspeople

10:30 am - "Oglethorpe's Address to the Townspeople of Darien"

7:30 pm - Evening Dinner with Oglethorpe

Scottish Heritage Days -

Friday & Saturday, March 26 & 27, 2004

A reenactment of the Battle of Bloody March will be conducted along with other festivities related to Scottish culture and lifestyle.

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	Ellie Legg

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



Darien, Georgia 31305
P.O. Box 1405