

Altamaha Echoes

Lower Altamaha Historical Society Newsletter October 2004

LAHS Board of Directors Meeting, October 21, 2004, 4:30 P.M. –
St. Andrew's Parish House
LAHS members, are always welcome

LAHS MEETING, OCTOBER 21, 2004, 7:00 P.M. – St. ANDREW'S PARISH HOUSE
DUTCH TREAT SUPPER, 5:45 P.M. at B&J PIZZA

Homeland Security and FLETC's Mission, will be the program presented by Rick Shelnett and Tony Blanda. The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center is located at Glynco. The Marine Training Division is one part of FLETC.

Richard D. Shelnett is a native of Avondale Estates, Georgia. He was graduated from Georgia State University in 1975 and immediately went to work for Sea Island Company. In December 2003, Rick began work with FLETC. His initial role was to prepare for assistance with the Group O Eight "Sea Island Summit". He is now assigned to the Public Affairs Office and assists with community relations and communications. Rick and his wife Rene, have three children. He is a founding member of Frederica Baptist Church and involved in many civic groups in Coastal Georgia.

Anthony Blanda is a native of Rhode Island. He was graduated from the University of Georgia. His last duty, before retirement, from the U. S. Coast Guard was Senior Chief, responsible for the U. S. Coast Guard station on St. Simons Island. For the past 16 years, he has been an instructor in the Driver and Marine Training Division at FLETC. He is also an instructor for the U. S. Coast Guard Auxilliary.

LAHS MEETING, NOVEMBER 18, 2004, 7:00 P.M. – St. ANDREW'S PARISH HOUSE
DUTCH TREAT SUPPER, 5:45 P.M. at B&J PIZZA

"A Great Day for the Georgia Navy" will be the program, presented by Bill Ramsaur of St. Simons Island and Jerry Braddock of Charleston. In early April of 1778, Colonel Samuel Elbert learned that four British vessels were sailing in St. Simons Sound, and detailed 350 men from the Georgia Continental Battalions at Fort Howe to Darien. There, they embarked on Georgia Navy galleys and proceeded to the Frederica River to engage the British vessels. On April 19th, the three Georgia Navy galleys, *Lee* (commanded by Jerry Braddock's ancestor), *Washington* and *Bulloch* out-gunned and captured the British ships in the Frederica River. This remarkable victory helped to stiffen Patriot resolve at a critical time in Georgia during the American Revolution.

Bill Ramsaur, is LAHS member and President of the Marshes of Glynn Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. Jerry Braddock, author of the book "Wooden Ships Iron Men" and resident of Charleston, will comment on the significant role of his Great (4times) Grandfather, Captain John Cutler Braddock, in the Frederica Naval Action, as well as naval activities of other ancestors who were eighteenth century master mariners.

LAHS Christmas Covered Dish Dinner Party
Wednesday Evening, December 8, 5:30 pm
Belvedere Island Plantation Club House

Decorated for Christmas, the Belvedere Island Plantation Club House will be the setting for the 2004 LAHS Holiday Celebration. Bob and Jean Hawkins 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 October and November meetings.

Ashantilly Center, Inc. www.ashantilly.org Announces the sale of a limited number of Fort King George Maps. The original design is a silk screen print measuring 16 3/8" x 22 5/8" entitled "A Plan of Fort King George, as its Fortified in 1726". It was designed by William G. Haynes, Jr. using research provided by McIntosh County historian Miss Bessie Lewis. It was the first publication of the private Ashantilly Press in 1955. No prints have been made since that date.

The unframed prints may be purchased for \$200 plus S&H. Orders may be placed at the Ashantilly web site, or Ashantilly Center, Inc. P.O. Box 1449, Darien, GA, 31305. Ashantilly Center, Inc. is a non-profit charitable organization.

LIVING on the Georgia Tidewater – Burnette Vanstory, in her book *Georgia's Land of the Golden Isles* describes some homes in Darien circa 1830. Excerpts from this book are below:

Darien was a town of shady streets and comfortable houses with yards enclosed by picket fences and beautified by flowers, shrubs, and orange trees. Two of these houses were considered show places. One was Ashantilly, a mile or so east of town, built by Thomas Spalding for his mother, used after her death as winter home for the family, and later the property of the Spaldings' son Charles. The other was the beautiful Troup house upon the promontory known as Cathead, a serene tree-shaded point overlooking the river and marshes on the west side of Darien.

Built in the early eighteen hundreds, the Spalding house was named for the Barony of Ashantilly to which Thomas Spalding's father had been heir in Scotland. Designed by the Laird of Sapelo himself, Ashantilly was unique and charming. A two-storied house with one-storied wings, built wide and low to the ground, its spacious, beautifully proportioned rooms were ornamented with hand-carved wainscot, cornices, and mantels; the exterior was of expertly finished tabby, and at either end was an open portico with columns of Italian marble. An unusual architectural feature was the series of floor length windows across the front, while the entire back of the house was a solid wall—perhaps an early experiment in the modern idea of solar heating.

The Troup residence, a large house constructed, like Ashantilly, entirely of tabby, was designed by that gifted young Englishman, William Jay, who drew the plans for the famous Habersham and Owens-Thomas places in Savannah. An apprenticed architect in London, young Jay came to Savannah in 1818, and although less than twenty-five years of age he soon made a name for himself along the coast, and designed some of the most beautiful buildings in the region. The Troup house was the town residence of Dr. James McGillivray Troup, planter-physician, who was one of the most prominent men of McIntosh County. The Darien physician served as justice of the county, as commissioner of the McIntosh County Academy, as president of the bank, mayor of Darien, and as state senator.

It was one of Dr. Troup's daughters, Clelia, who married Daniel Murray Key, a grandson of Francis Scott Key. A son of this marriage, Francis Murray Key, grew up in the coastal region, and as a young man went to the Philippines and later to South America where he spent the rest of his life. In 1952 his son, Francis Scott Key, came to the United States and visited relatives and friends as he traveled along the Georgia coast.

TODAY, 2004:

Ashantilly was the home of the Haynes family from 1918 until the death of William G. Haynes, Jr. 1908 – 2001. The estate is managed by a private trust, Ashantilly Center, Inc.

The remains of the Troup house are in the vicinity of Ga 251 and 195.

Lower Altamaha Historical Society Field Trip

Reservation dead line, Friday, October 15

Jean Hawkins, w. 437 4141 - h. 832 6588

"A Visit to Seabrook Village"

Liberty County, Georgia

Saturday, October 23, 2004

Seabrook Village is an Unique Afro-American Living History Museum. You will see and hear an authentic portrayal of the Coastal Georgia Afro-American history from 1865 to 1930.

Tour, meal & gratitude \$23.00 per person

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, - Family membership - \$20, - Single membership - \$15, - Student membership - \$5, Life membership - \$250.

LAHS web site:

www.loweraltamahahistoricalociety.org

Jim Bruce has created an outstanding web site for LAHS. It will be a great tool to attract corporate sponsorship, corporate members, and life members. There are a lot of historical references, photos, book list, events and coming programs.

The central picture of the LAHS web page was explained in the LAHS Newsletter, November, 1995.

"DARIEN WATERFRONT, 1862"

ARTIST, JOHN STOBART

PREMIERE SHOWING RECEPTION, NOVEMBER 21, 1995, 5 P.M.

"RHETT'S HILL" [HOME OF DYSON & LLOYD FLANDERS]

KING GEORGE DRIVE-DARIEN, GEORGIA

John Stobart, from England, now living in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, is an International Marine Artist. Some of the historical seaports he has interpreted in oil on canvass are Charleston, Savannah, Hilton Head. Among several of the galleries where his works are shown is the "John Stobart Gallery at Harbor Heard", Hilton Head Island, South Carolina.

During the past year, John Stobart, with the help of Buddy Sullivan, has been doing the historical research on the waterfront of Darien as it was in 1862. Stobart is an artist with a special talent of interpreting historical research on canvass and bringing authentic life to historical locations such as the Darien waterfront of 1862.

Habitat for Humanity, McIntosh County

All interior wall painting for the first two Habitat for Humanity houses was done by LAHS. Once again LAHS stepped forward to make the third Habitat for Humanity house in McIntosh county happen.

Many thanks to those who painted all interior walls of Habitat for Humanity #3: Howard & Jeanne Klippel, Jeanne Leonard, Ed & Joan Meyer, Chris & Ward Milner, Myrtle Newberry, Harriet Roberson, Lamar & Sandra Williamson.

LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1405 -- Darien, Georgia 31305

www.loweraltamahahistorical.society.org

LAHS Officers & Board of Directors, 2004-2005

President	Peyton Lingle
Vice-President	Jean Hawkins
Secretary	Betty Cleveland
Treasurer	William Collins

Harry Clark	Ann Baggett
Dyson Flanders	Oscar Brinckmann
Myrtle Newberry	Howard Klippel
Kaye Traer	Kelly Spratt

Past-President - Dinah Jackson
Director Emeritus - Buddy Sullivan

LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Life Members:

Muriel Bell	Darien Telephone Co.
Mrs. Caroline B. Davis	Gus & Marg Hallum
Alfred W. Jones	Chris & Ward Milner
John Reehling	John & Mary Dean
Everett Moriarty	Enterprise Rent-A-Car
Laura Berolzheimer	Jeff & Kelly Spratt
Dyson & Lloyd Flanders	

Corporate Members:

Sapelo National Bank, William Parker, Pres.

The Book Shop, Inc., Harold & Virginia Hicks

Coastal Georgia Historical Society

"The Lodge", Little St. Simons Island

FORT KING GEORGE STATE HISTORICAL SITE

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

www.darionet.net/~fhsteele/

Living History Programs for students and guest are a daily activity at the Fort. Reenactors allow an eighteenth century experience for the observer.
October & November 2004

The Fort by Candlelight

Saturday, October 16, 7p.m. - 10p.m.

Take a candle -lit walk back into history. The year is 1725 and the soldiers of Fort King George are engaged in a variety of evening activities, including cannon firings. Refreshments are included!

Drums Along the Altamaha

Saturday, November 13, 11a.m. - 5p.m.

Fort King George was a major stepping stone to the establishment of the colony of Georgia. Commemorate its significance with British, Spanish, Native American and civilian reenactors 18th century crafts and a battle reenactment



3122240252

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



Darien, Georgia 31305
P.O. Box 1405

Lower Altamaha Historical Society, Inc.