

# Altamaha Echoes

Lower Altamaha Historical Society Newsletter      April 2005

**LAHS MEETING, APRIL 21, 2005, 7:00 P.M. – St. ANDREW’S PARISH HOUSE**  
**DUTCH TREAT SUPPER, 5:45 P.M. at B&J PIZZA**

Speaker for the evening will be McIntosh County historian **Buddy Sullivan**, Director Emeritus of LAHS, who will provide insight to members on an unusual topic. Buddy will share some of his research regarding the presence of **mosquitoes, and mosquito-related illnesses, in McIntosh County** and how these issues have affected local history, from a societal, cultural, and economic standpoint, as well as from the obvious perspective of local health. The subject matter comes from a research paper prepared by Buddy for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and covers a time frame from the 1721 establishment of Fort King George until about 1900. Sullivan's research in this regard places the presence of mosquitoes around Darien in historical context and demonstrates that the much-maligned biting insect has always been a "natural fact of life"--and, occasionally, before 1900, even death!

The election of Officers for 2005 –06 and four Board of Directors for 2005 –07 will be held at the LAHS Meeting on April 21. In addition to the slate of Officers and Board of Directors submitted by the 2005 Nominating Committee, additional nominations for these positions may be accepted from the floor. Nominations will be accepted for any LAHS member in good standing that has given their consent for the nomination.

The 2005 Nominating Committee: Ann Baggett, chairman, Howard Klippel, Daneen Brinkmann, Dyson Flanders and Lamar Williamson submit the following slate of persons for LAHS consideration:

OFFICERS 2005 – 2006		BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2005 – 2007
President	Peyton Lingle	Jack Godfrey
Vice – President	Buddy Sullivan	Chris Milner
Secretary	Betty Cleveland	Jim Bruce
Treasurer	Kaye Traer	Bud Durden

A vote of the LAHS membership will be, requested at the April 21 meeting , to amend the By-Laws of LAHS. This amendment will allow for the term of each officer of LAHS to be two years rather than one year.

The Board of Directors of Lower Altamaha Historical Society respectfully submit the following amendment to the current By-Laws of Lower Altamaha Historical Society, Inc.  
**ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS**

Section 2: (second sentence)-----The term of each officer shall be for two (2) years and until a successor is designated and justified.

The Board of Directors of LAHS announces a financial and membership change in fiscal

year from May 1 to January 1. Current dues are renewable at this time. They will be recorded as your 2005 dues. In January 2006 your dues will be renewable for the year 2006.

### **CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY APRIL 26**

For several years, LAHS member, Everett Moriarty has honored, remembered and recognized the Confederate Veterans of McIntosh County. Each year on April 26, Confederate Memorial Day, a basket of flowers is placed on the Confederate Monument at the McIntosh County Courthouse, and over 120 Confederate Flags are placed on the graves of McIntosh County Confederate Veterans. Some of the cemeteries where you may observe these flags are: St. Andrews, Ebenezer, Upper Mill, Holland, Plum Orchard, Young Island, McIntosh Family, Baillie Plantation, Reynolds Chapel, Robson Family, and others.

### **Buddy Sullivan Scholarship**

LAHS will award a \$1000 scholarship for College to a McIntosh Academy student. Applications will be accepted until April 15, 2004. This scholarship is also available to current College Students from McIntosh County. Applications are available at Ida Hilton Public Library and McIntosh Academy.

Mail Applications by April 15, 2004: Ann Baggett – 95 Belvedere Court – Townsend, Georgia 31331

### **MEMBERSHIP:** Jeanne Klippel, chairman

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

LAHS now operates on a fiscal year January 1 – Dues for 2005 are due May 1, 2005. A membership envelope is inclosed , for your convenience. Your 2006 renewal will be due in January.

Individual –\$15.00 annual,      Student – \$5.00 annual,      Family – \$20.00 annual,

Corporate – \$100.00 annual,      Individual Lifetime –\$250.00

Mail dues to: LAHS — P. O. Box 1405 ---- Darien , Georgia 31305

### **LAHS Board of Directors Meeting, May 19, 2005, 4:30 P.M. –**

St. Andrew's Parish House

First LAHS Board Meeting for 2005 – 2006. LAHS members, are always welcome

### **LAHS Meeting, May 19, 2005 – 7:00 pm – St. Andrew's Parish House**

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

**“Fort Pulaski , 1862”** will be the program, presented by John Breen. In the year 1862, the compelling events at Fort Pulaski, Savannah, affected the course of United States history. This story will be told by John Breen, who for seventeen years was superintendent of Fort Pulaski National Monument.

John Breen, a native of California, served in the US Army , 1966-1968. He was

graduated from California State University, Humboldt, with a degree in Wildlife Management. His graduate degree in Wildlife Biology, is from the University of Idaho. John retired in 2005, after thirty four years with the National Park Service.

**“Historically Used” Items** are being collected for LAHS to sell at Darien Days, November 2005. Vintage Books, Maps, Post Cards, Greeting Cards, Pictures, Newspapers, Magazines, Signs are just a few ideas of items that should draw a crowd to the LAHS Booth. LAHS memberships and publications will also be sold. You are asked to contribute to this money making project.

Betty Ewing will receive and store items. —

**Living on the Georgia Tidewater** – Commerce in Darien and on the Altamaha River in the early nineteenth-century included Flatboats, Poleboats, Steamboat. Below are excerpts from *Swamp Water and Wiregrass* by George A. Rogers and R. Frank Saunders, Jr.

From the very first English settlement, agriculture, cattle raising, and lumbering were the main economic interests along the Georgia coast. One of the earliest resources harvested was live oak timber. The USS Constitution, famous as Old Ironsides, was built of oak grown on St. Simons.

Similarly, an unexpected windfall of funds from a cattle roundup on St. Simons helped pay for the construction of Fort Barrington on the Altamaha in 1760. In the early nineteenth century sea-island cotton was the leading crop on the coastal islands. First grown by the Scots on St. Simons as early as 1778, sea-island cotton quickly spread to other islands along the coast and replaced indigo as the staple crop. -----

The limited zone marked by the “ebb and flow” of the tides was the preeminent domain of the great rice plantations ---- an extension of the South Carolina rice plantations culture. Local planters developed an ingenious and extensive hydraulic engineering system of dikes, canals, sluice gates, and dams that controlled the flow of river water into the fields at high tide and drained them at low tide. James Hamilton Couper’s plantation, Hopeton, was one of the most productive in coastal Georgia. At Hopeton, located on the south side of the Altamaha in Glynn County about five miles above Darien, Couper rotated rice, sugar cane, and sea-island cotton on his swamp lands.

For most of the nineteenth century, the Altamaha River system was the main artery of commerce between middle Georgia and the coast; Darien was its seaport. Flatboats were largely used to float cotton down river to Darien. Incapable of returning upstream, these boats would be dismantled and sold for lumber. One of the earliest to drift a flatboat down the Oconee and Altamaha was Freeman Lewis who brought down 5,000 bushels of corn in July 1806. Poleboats, operated by thrusting long poles into the river bed, carried passengers and freight in both directions. By 1806, A. Mills, a poleboat operator, reported that he had made seven round-trips between Milledgeville and Darien. Traveling upstream from Darien to the “Forks” by poleboat sometimes required 15 to 20 days.

Darien prospered and, although its population was never very large, it was designated the county seat of McIntosh County in 1818. That same year its first newspaper was published and the Bank of Darien was chartered with a capitalization of one million dollars. This bank, with branches in seven Georgia cities, was the major financial institution in Georgia

for several decades. A new aspect of Darien's port city function was ushered in when the first steamboat to travel the Altamaha left Darien late in 1818 and arrived in Milledgeville early in 1819. Actually steamboats never completely replaced poleboats because the latter could navigate at low water. The Macon-Atlantic Navigation Company, the last line to operate on the river, continued until the 1930s. On a typical haul, cargo included groceries, hardware, sugar, and fertilizer that was put off at Doctortown and other landings on the Altamaha — at Lumber City, Jacksonville, Hawkinsville, and Macon on the Ocmulgee, and Mount Vernon and Dublin on the Oconee. Cargo downstream was cotton, naval stores, and lumber. During the prohibition era, numerous whiskey stills along the river supported a lively sugar traffic. When the Central of Georgia Railroad reached Macon in 1843, steamboat lines were forced to reduce freight rates to meet this competition. Other rail lines and a network of highways, completed in the early twentieth century, doomed the surviving steamboats. Today the river is used largely by pleasure

### **LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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

[www.loweraltamahahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.loweraltamahahistoricalsociety.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 Memberships:**

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 Memberships:**

**Sapelo National Bank, William Parker, Pres.**

**The Book Shop, Inc., Harold & Virginia Hicks**

**Coastal Georgia Historical Society**

**“The Lodge”, Little St. Simons Island**

**Sons of the American Revolution  
Marshes of Glynn Chapter  
cordially invite you to**

***Georgia Patriots Day  
St. Simons Island, Georgia  
Tuesday, April 19, 2005***

**10:00 am Christ Church, Frederica Cemetery**

***Dedication Ceremony  
Revolutionary War Patriots Grave Markers***  
Cyrus Dart      Robert Grant      William Page      Samuel Wright

**2:00 pm Fort Frederica National Monument**

***Dedication Ceremony  
Historical Marker, “The Georgia Navy”***

All facilities of the Park will be available, including programs by the Rangers. No admission fees will be charged and attendance by the public is encouraged.

**Ceremony Participates**

Sons of American Revolution  
Daughters of American Revolution  
Descendants of Revolutionary War Patriots  
Georgia Historical Society  
Coastal Georgia Historical Society  
US Navy Band – US Navy Honor Guard  
Brunswick High School JROTC Honor Guard  
Virginia Steele Wood, Navy Specialist  
Library of Congress  
Descends of Georgia Navy Patriots