

Altamaha Echoes

Lower Altamaha Historical Society Newsletter October 2005

LAHS Board of Directors Meeting, October 20, 2005, 4:30 P.M. –

St. Andrew's Parish House

LAHS members, are always welcome

LAHS Meeting, October 20, 2005, 7:00 P.M. – St. Andrew's Parish House
Dutch Treat Supper, 5:45 P.M. at B & J Pizza

“Darien, Roswell, Marietta and Sackets Harbor, NY – 1842 -1870” will be the program, presented by Connie Cox and Stephanie Curtis. In 1836, Roswell King, Sr. , his son Barrington and other members of his coastal Georgia circle migrated inland to Cobb County where they founded the towns of Roswell and Lebanon, near the Chattahoochee River. George Hull Camp lived in Barrington Hall upon arriving in Roswell, Georgia in 1842. He became President of the Roswell Mill. Camp's letters and Daguerreotypes were found in the Roswell Archives , most were written or sent to Barrington Hall. His letters tell of “The Colony” who came from the coast into the “upcountry.” A power point presentation will tell what became of the coastal people who came to Cobb County.

Connie Cox received the letters of George Camp in 1995. This is the tenth year of deciphering, researching and editing the collection which will be published in a book *Providence*. Connie formerly worked in research for Eugenia Price and co-edited a diary, *Journal of a Landlady*. Connie's husband, Dan Cox is founder/CEO of the Marietta Museum of History.

Stephanie Curtis has worked with Connie on the *Providence* project for the last five years. They have traveled together doing research and interviews in Sackets Harbor, NY, Greensboro, Roswell and Darien. Stephanie and husband Don live in Cobb County. They are parents of five and grandparents of two. Stephanie home schools three of her children.

LAHS Meeting, November 17, 2005, 7:00 P.M. – St. Andrew's Parish House
Dutch Treat Supper, 5:45 P.M. at B & J Pizza

“Five Centuries of Book Arts” will be the program, presented by David W. Miller, Superintendent, Historic Ashantilly Press. The arts of wood cuts, making of lead type, setting of lead type, layout, paper, printing and bindings has been practiced for ages to create a book. In Darien, Georgia, the Ashantilly Press, using these arts, produced Books and ephemera of the highest quality for forty five years. Dave Miller will actively seek environmental, ecological, and historical programs in the arts that contribute to an understanding of the Ashantilly Press and surrounding community, and to produce work consistent with the highly esteemed history of the press itself.

Dave holds a *B.A. English Literature* - Kennesaw State University; *M.F.A. Book Arts* - University of Alabama; *M. A. English Literature* - Georgia State University; *Ph.D. Candidate* - Georgia State University. Recently he has been a Graduate Teaching Assistant at Georgia State University. Prior to that position, he was a Bookbinder (Archive Preservation and Restoration) at Emory University. Dave lives in the Guest House on the Ashantilly Estate in Darien . .

LAHS Christmas Covered Dish Dinner Party
Wednesday Evening, December 7, 5:30 pm

Belvedere Island Plantation Club House

Decorated for Christmas, the Belvedere Island Plantation Club House will be the setting for the 2005 LAHS Holiday Celebration. Howard and Jeanne Klippel 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.

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

. 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

Living on the Georgia Tidewater – William G. Haynes, Jr. (1908-2001) of Ashantilly was a guiding force and inspiration to Darien and McIntosh County for more than eighty years. Ashantilly (*THE OLD TABBY*) and The Altamaha River have been the driving forces of this man. Below is a sketch of Bill Haynes living, working and contributing on the Georgia Tidewater.

Ashantilly was built by Thomas Spalding on the Georgia mainland no later than 1820. Thomas Spalding of Sapelo Island needed Ashantilly as a convenience to his business holdings in Darien and throughout Georgia. Spalding was born in the town of Frederica, on St. Simons Island. He inherited property from his mother, Margery McIntosh, granddaughter of John McIntosh Mohr. Spalding named Ashantilly after an ancestral home in County Perth, Scotland. The house was constructed of tabby, a mixture of lime, sand, shell and water. After Spalding's death in 1851, his son Charles abandoned Ashantilly because of the expense of repairs and maintenance. It was after the War Between the States when Charles sold some of the property for new home construction. Charles built himself a home just across the road from *THE OLD TABBY*. (This was the name the locals used. Ashantilly referred to the subdivision of homes as it does today.) The Wilcox family purchased The Old Tabby in 1870. They rebuilt the house and made several changes. A hip roof with wood shingles was added, while the classical columns and marble flagging were removed.

The Haynes family moved to Ashantilly in 1918. The Haynes family, William, Sr. and wife (nee Laura Grant from Atlanta), Frances, Ann Lee and Bill, Jr. were moving from Columbia, S. C. to Darien. The two older girls had attended South Carolina Women's College in Columbia. Bill was 10 years old. Frances the older sister taught school at Atlanta Girls High, then went on to Florida State College for Women in Tallahassee, where she became a research librarian. Ann Lee taught school in Savannah for several years

before going to New York City to pursue a career in Commercial Art. Bill attended school in Darien. After being graduated from Darien High School in 1927 he went to New York City to study Art. He worked at the New York City Public Library, attended Art School and lived with Ann Lee in her apartment. The conservative transportation between Darien and New York in 1927 was by Steamer Ship from Savannah. Bill remembers that first trip to the City. Ann Lee met him at the dock and he was truly “a country boy come to town”, Savannah didn’t have this many big, tall buildings.

In 1936, Bill returned to Darien and Ashantilly to contemplate which career in art he could follow that would bring him back to the Georgia Tidewater which he loved so much. That year he designed and painted, in tempura, four panels for back drop in the Darien Chamber of Commerce Exhibit at the Savannah State Fair of 1937. The Chamber of Commerce was awarded a twenty five dollar prize for this Exhibit. One of these panels hangs, today in the Haynes Auditorium of the Ida Hilton Public Library.

A fire gutted the interior of Ashantilly in 1937. The family moved to temporary housing. It was 1939 before restoration began. Bill Haynes located and purchased doors, mantels, and other period pieces in salvage yards and from Antique dealers in Savannah and Charleston. Using a local carpenter, Bill was able to dry in the house in order for the displaced family to move back in. The Crown molding in the living room was accomplished by Bill Haynes, by pulling a profile stencil over wet plaster. This technique was done at ceiling height. The formal garden to the north of the house was designed and planted by Bill Haynes during this same period. Restoration efforts on Ashantilly were interrupted when Bill Haynes was drafted into the Army in 1941. He served at Fort Stewart, Georgia and in New Guinea. The people and the landscape of New Guinea were recorded by Haynes in many small watercolor paintings.

In 1945, after World War II, Bill returned to New York. He entered Cooper Union Art School. It was here at Cooper Union that he was introduced to the art of typography and the printing press. The art of the printed page with the selection of type, arrangement, color and illustrated with his own wood cuts became the dream of Ashantilly Press in Darien, Georgia. The summer months were free from school and Bill returned home to continue work on Ashantilly. In the summer of 1946, Bill found the little Hand Press in Riceboro on which he would later print his first book, *Anchored Yesterdays*. He also purchased his first types. When he returned to New York, he acquired more types, new, and second hand in very good condition, hardly used at all. They were sent home for future printing. The Cooper Union course ended in 1948. He met Natalie Erdman. He worked at a small advertising agency in an on the job training experience. He resumed his job at the New York Public Library. In 1951, Bill went to work with the designers and typographers that were publishing the “Frick Catalogue”. He was chosen as an inexperienced artist who they could train to do this perfection work. The knowledge and techniques learned here for the next three years would only add to the art and perfection of the books and ephermia of Ashantilly Press over the next four decades.

Bill and Natalie married in 1952. In 1955, they moved to Ashantilly and created Ashantilly Press. A Fort King George Map was drawn by Haynes at the request of Miss Bessie Lewis. Bill and Natalie printed the map by silk screen in four colors. This was printed in the south room of Ashantilly. The first book, *Anchored Yesterdays* was printed on the little hand press, also in the south room in 1956. The large letter press was purchased in 1958 and operated in the south room until the print shop was built.. The weekly Worship Service Program for the First Presbyterian Church was printed on Ashantilly Press for thirty years. Haynes was a successful business man in McIntosh. His contributions to the community are untold. In 1979 he was the primary force in establishing the *Lower Altamaha Historical Society*.

THE OLD TABBY and THE HISTORIC ASHANTILLY PRESS are managed by Ashantilly Center, Inc.

LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

www.loweraltamahahistoricalsociety.org

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