

Altamaha Echoes

Lower Altamaha Historical Society Newsletter

June 2006

Lower Altamaha Historical Society 2006 Annual Report

We have enjoyed another year of progress and change. Effective January 2006, LAHS accepted the offer of Steve Smith, the new superintendent of Fort King George, to conduct our monthly meetings at the Fort. We are awaiting the final results of the intended condominium development adjacent to historic Fort King George. As a supporting organization, we have a responsibility to make our concerns known as they touch on the historical and educational contribution of the Fort.

We have missed the significant contributions of Myrtle Newberry during her recent illness and recovery and are looking forward to her imminent return. In her absence, we are grateful for the all the work done by Howard and Jeanne Klippel and Lloyd Flanders to keep the membership of LAHS informed.

We also acknowledge the passing of Dyson Flanders. He will be missed by everyone who knew him, to the Society, to the City of Darien, to McIntosh County, and his family. His individual and collective contributions were essential to the establishment and growth of the Lower Altamaha Historical Society and improvements in the City of Darien.

This year's programs included "The Altamaha River," "Fort Stewart Museum," "Darien, Roswell, Marietta and Sackets Harbor, NY," "5 Centuries of Book Arts," "Harris Neck NWR-Past & Present", "Silver point Painting", "Scots-Irish Genealogy," "Neptune's Honor," to name a few. The presenters were very knowledgeable and provided new insights into their area of expertise.

With arrangements made by Ed and Joan Meyer, our members enjoyed a day trip to Cumberland Island's Plum Orchard. It was a great opportunity to for participants to look backwards to an earlier time and place. The annual Christmas party was an unqualified success. The highlight, as usual, Everett Moriarty's egg nog.

As of this writing, the \$1000 Buddy Sullivan Scholarship has not yet been awarded but there are quite a few deserving applicants.

The Society has been served well by our elected officers, Board of Trustees, and the various committees and their chairmen. In particular, I would like to recognize the excellent work done by Howard Klippel in arranging for great speakers; Jeanne Klippel for her thoroughness in maintaining our current membership records; Anne (Baggett) Howard and her Scholarship Committee; Chris Milner and his nominating committee for their excellent slate of candidates; Ed and Joan Meyer for making the arrangements for our day trips; Kaye Traer for her thoroughness in so diligently keeping the financial affairs of the Society; Harriet Roberson for all her dedication in providing refreshments for every meeting; Everett Moriarty for his willingness to make sure the meeting room is properly set up and that all members and officers are signed in and for his exceptional preparation of the Christmas eggnog recipe; and for Jim Bruce's continuing service as the Webmaster of our web site . I hope I did not leave out anyone but there were so many individuals who have made a contribution to the success of LAHS, I am bound to have overlooked someone. If so, I apologize.

I consider it an honor to have served as President of this outstanding organization for a second term. I am confident that your officers and Board of Trustees will guide the Society by providing even more interesting historical and educational programs and continued service to our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Peyton Lingle

Sapelo Island and its Reserve:
Reflections of Coastal Georgia
a talk by
Buddy Sullivan

Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve [SINERR] is celebrating 50 years of Research Stewardship and Education. On June 29, 6 p.m. at the Ida Hilton Public Library in Darien, SINERR Director and noted historian Buddy Sullivan will present a program on the history of the Reserve and Sapelo Island. Other anniversary events are listed on the back of this publication.

LAHS Meeting, June 15, 2006, 7:00 P.M.
Fort King George Historical Site
Dutch Treat Supper, 5:45 P.M. at B&J Pizza

“Darien Today: Preserving the Past While Planning for the Future” will be the program, presented by Kelly Spratt. Storms, fires, economic booms and busts, the city of Darien has survived many challenge over the centuries. Growth and development are the newest challenge facing this resilient town. Darien City Councilwoman Kelly Spratt will address the issues of preserving the cultural and natural assets of Darien while encouraging sustainable residential and commercial growth.....

Kelly Spratt was born in Athens, GA and raised in Rabun County. She has a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Georgia and an M.S. in Biology from Georgia Southern University. She has worked as a biologist on St. Catherines Island, GA, and in Hawaii and Micronesia. She and her husband Jeff have owned and operated Open Gates Bed & Breakfast in downtown Darien for the past five years. In December of 2005, she was elected to the Darien City Council. They have two children, Hannah (age 5) and Hank (age 1).

BUDDY SULLIVAN SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The Buddy Sullivan Scholarship Award, \$1000, is given yearly to a McIntosh County student by Lower Altamaha Historical Society. The recipient for 2006 is Ciera Loftin , daughter of Dr. Christine Draffin of Darien. Ciera spoke at a LAHS meeting on her return from a students trip to Scotland several years ago. Buddy Sullivan will present this award June 15, at the LAHS meeting. Eight applicants applied for this award.

LAHS MEETING, Thursday, July 20, 2006, 5:00 P.M.

Officers Barracks – Fort King George Historical Site
POT LUCK PICNIC SUPPER, 5:00 P.M.

Fellowship Picnic Supper for LAHS members and guest. Bring a dish that will serve about eight people that does not require a knife for eating. LAHS will furnish Entree, drinks, paper products. Fellowship and socializing will be the fare for the evening. There is no program planned.

LAHS Meeting, Thursday, August 17, 2006, 7:00 P.M.

Fort King George Historical Site
Dutch Treat Supper, 5:45 P.M. at B&J Pizza

“Early Spanish Settlement on Georgia Coast – 1525 – 1721” will be the program presented by Buddy Sullivan. In 1526 , only 34 years after Christopher Columbus made his first landfall in the western hemisphere, a Spanish lawyer named Lucas Vasquez de Ayllon led an expedition in six ships comprised of about 500 men and women, including Dominican friars and the first African slaves to come to the land which became the United States, to establish a colony – the first attempt at European colonization in what is now the U. S. mainland. ----The exact location of this colony, called San Miguel de Gualdape, is not known. Based on Hoffman’s research, National Geographic magazine, in March 1988, identified the site as on or near St. Catherines Island in the Sapelo Sound vicinity.

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.

LAHS Board of Directors Meeting, September 21, 2006, 4:30 P.M. –
Fort King George Historical Site
LAHS members, are always welcome

LAHS Meeting , Thursday, September 21, 2006, 7:00 P.M.
Fort King George Historical Site
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. Bring your Wedding Photograph and share with all this special time in your life. Your contribution is important to make this an evening of learning, understanding, and fellowship among LAHS members.

Living on the Georgia Tidewater – In September 1895, Mrs. Helen S. Barclay . wrote *“A Short Historical Sketch of McIntosh County, Ga.”* General Robert E. Lee Visits Darien is a part of this work.

“It was in the Spring of 1869 when the old “Lizzie Baker” was our passenger boat between Darien and Savannah. We received notice that Gen. Robert E. Lee would be on board, and had consented to hold an informal reception on board when the boat should stop at Darien. The news spread quickly; the wildest enthusiasm possessed the people, who literally flocked to the town, carrying sprays of the starry orange flowers, the perfume of which will ever be associated with that memorable day. Col. Barclay as ranking Confederate officer, was chosen by the committee to welcome the beloved Chieftain and to present the ladies and gentlemen, Northern, as well as Southern, for all caught the spirit of the occasion. Many of the men had been with him into Maryland, and through the great campaign in Virginia; and now, the tears unconsciously resting on many a cheek, the shaking voice and cordial hand-grasp, bore witness to the devotion that had carried these veterans whenever he led. Pale, calm, patient, he showed no sign of wishing to shorten the ordeal, though in poor health, his own eyes but the brighter for the glitter of tender, unshed tears, as the people piled his arms with their floral tributes, and poured forth such words of loving welcome as must have refreshed his spirits, and cheered his heart, throughout the rest of his earthly sojourn. At every town and city his reception was the same, and it is pleasant to remember that he never denied the people, or himself this sweet interchange of affectionate remembrance, but welcomed it cordially, and bore the tremendous strain and fatigue without sign of weariness, and with his own true smile, beaming into the people’s hearts!”

LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

www.loweraltamahahistoricalsociety.org

LAHS Officers 2006-2008

President	Harriet Roberson
Vice-President	Jack Godfrey
Secretary	Elizabeth A. Ewing
Treasurer	Kaye Traer

2006 - 2008

Harry Clark
Howard Klippel
Myrtle Newberry
Lamar Williamson

2005 - 2007

Jim Bruce
Bob Durden
Dave Miller
Chris Milner

Past-President Peyton Lingle

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
Lloyd Flanders	David Miller

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

FORT KING GEORGE STATE HISTORICAL SITE

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

www.darientel.net/~ftkgeo/

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

SAPELO ISLAND NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE

www.sapelonerr.org

Celebrating 50 Years of Research Stewardship and Education

June 29, 6 p.m., Ida Hilton Public Library, Darien
“Sapelo Island and Its Reserve” by Buddy Sullivan

June 6, 8:30a.m. – 3p.m., Sapelo Island

“Crabbing & Shrimping on the Georgia Coast”

July 18, 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m., Sapelo Island
“Coastal Ecology”

August 23, 6 p.m. – The Ritz Theater in Brunswick
“Scenes of Sapelo Island Concert”

September 22-24 – Trustees Theater in Savannah
“NOAA’s Gray’s Reef Ocean Film Festival”

September 30, – Brunswick-Glynn County Library
“NOAA’s Ocean Film Festival”