

Altamaha Echoes

Lower Altamaha Historical Society Newsletter January 2007

LAHS Board of Directors Meeting, January 18, 2007, 4:30 P.M. –
Fort King George Historic Site
LAHS members, are always welcome

LAHS meeting, January 18, 2007, 7:00 p.m. – Fort King George Historic Site
Dutch treat supper, 5:45 p.m. at B&J Pizza

“An Angry Drum Echoed: Mary Musgrove, Queen of the Creeks” will be the program, presented by Pamela Bauer Mueller. Born “Coosaponakeesa” to a Creek mother and an English father about 1700, Mary Musgrove successfully lived in two very different worlds: her Indian heritage and the English way of life. Through her influence with the Indian tribes, Mary encouraged the chiefs to meet with Oglethorpe in Savannah, leading to the peaceful establishment of an English colony in Indian Territory.

Pam Mueller resides on St. Simons Island, with her husband Michael and two cats, Jasper and Sukey Spice. She was raised in Oregon and was graduated from Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon. Pam worked as a flight attendant for Pan American Airlines before marrying and moving to Mexico City, where she lived for eighteen years, teaching English, modeling and acting. She served for twelve years as a U.S. Customs Inspector in California and Canada. Pam took an early retirement to become a full time author.

Georgia Day

Oglethorpe Arrives at Darien

Friday, February 9th,

10am – 2pm

Darien was founded by the Scottish Highlanders, who arrived at the site of Fort King George on January 19, 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 Friday, February 9, 2007, the highlanders of Darien will greet General James Oglethorpe at the fort to commemorate the anniversary of this historic visit. Reenactors will portray various characters that were a part of the festivities and ceremony. Oglethorpe will arrive by boat at the Fort King George dock, at 10:00am.

LAHS meeting, February 15, 2007, 7:00 pm – Fort King George Historic Site
Dutch Treat Supper, at 5:45pm, at B & J Pizza

The program for the February meeting will be announced prior to February 15

LAHS Board of Directors Meeting, March 15, 2007, 4:30 P.M. –
Fort King George Historic Site
LAHS members, are always welcome

LAHS meeting, March 15, 2007, 7:00 pm – Fort King George Historic Site
Dutch Treat Supper, at 5:45pm, at B & J Pizza

“The Saga of the Slave Ship Wanderer: The Illegal Slave Trade in America and Georgia”, will be the program, presented by James Jordan .

Jim Jordan conducts historical and architectural walking tours of Savannah. He is a member of the Georgia Historical Society and is currently completing a historical novel about antebellum Savannah. Before moving to the low country ten years ago, he was a financial systems consultant in New York. He is a Certified Public Accountant, and holds a Master's Degree in Finance and a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Pace University in New York.

Georgia Historical Marker
(Jekyll Island, located off Riverview Drive at the Wharf.
GHM 063-17,1962) removed

MESS KETTLE FROM THE “WANDERER”

This mess kettle from the slave yacht Wanderer, was used for feeding the slaves landed on Jekyll Island in 1858 – the last slaves brought from Africa to the United States.

The Wanderer, pleasure yacht, slave ship, gunboat, and coastal freighter, was launched in 1857, built by Joseph Rowland and Thomas Hawkins at East Setauket, Long Island, for J. D. Johnson, a wealthy Louisiana planter and member of the exclusive New York Yacht Club. Sold almost immediately to Johnson's protegee W. C. Corrie of Charleston, the WANDERER was used in the illicit slave trade by Corrie and his associates, Charles A. L. Lamar of Savannah and Nelson D. Trowbridge of New Orleans.

At the outbreak of war in 1861, the WANDERER was caught in southern waters by the blockade and seized by Federal forces whereupon she was pressed into Union service in the Pensacola area. After the war she was sold at auction and put into the West Indian fruit trade. The WANDERER was finally driven ashore and wrecked in 1871 on Cape Maisi, Cuba.

Living on the Georgia Tidewater – Coastal Georgia in the mid nineteenth century excerpts: *Early Days on the Georgia Tidewater* by Buddy Sullivan

On Butler Island, and at Hampton Point, storm clouds were gathering in the 1850s, despite the increasing size of rice shipments. Pierce Butler was not an ideal plantation administrator. Butler “continued to dissipate his income by gambling at cards and by speculating in the stock market. His life remained in turmoil, reaching a crisis in ten year intervals,” notes Bell.

The year 1856 was a disappointing one for Butler. “His losses were such that the management of his financial affairs was taken from his hands to be placed with a triumvirate of Henry Fisher, his brother-in-law George Cadwalader, and Thomas James, his fellow trustee of John Butler’s estate.” In addition, Butler’s annual payments of \$1,500 a year to his former wife, Fanny Kemble, had fallen behind.

America was rushing headlong toward the Civil War, the major issue between North and South being slavery. In 1858, over 400 Africans had been illegally landed on Jekyll Island from the fast sailing yacht *Wanderer*, and a major federal case was pending on the docket in Savannah against one of the agents of the slave-smuggling venture, Charles Lamar.

Another notable event in the news of Savannah in 1859 was the anticipated auction of many of Pierce Butler’s slave from McIntosh and Glynn counties. Butler had squandered much of his plantations’ income through poor management and his own dissolute lifestyle. To satisfy his creditors and remain solvent he was forced, in March 1859, to auction half of his estate’s 900 slaves.

Some 450 Butler slaves were transported by rail and steamboat to Savannah for the auction to be directed by Captain Joe Bryan, a well-known Savannah slave broker. The slave auction was held at the Ten Broeck racecourse near Savannah and the Central of Georgia Railroad. Over a period of several days, according to the *Savannah Daily Morning News*, 436 Butler slaves were sold for a total of \$300,205, “being an average of a little over \$716 a head; a price well in excess of the average value of \$572.47 estimated by the appraiser when the slaves were divided between Pierce Butler and his brother’s estate.”

LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 1405 -- Darien, Georgia 31305
[www.loweraltamahistoricalociety.org](http://www.loweraltamahahistoricalociety.org)

FORT KING GEORGE STATE HISTORICAL SITE
P.O. Box 711--Darien, Ga.31305----- 912 437 4770
www.darientel.net/~fkgee

LAHS Officers 2006-2008

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LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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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

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

Garrison Weekend

Saturday, January 20th, 12pm - 4pm
Join the Garrison for an afternoon of artillery drills, musket firings, and soldiers' life and activities.

Oglethorpe at Darien

Friday, February 9th, 10am - 2pm
The highlanders of Darien greet General James Oglethorpe at the fort to commemorate the anniversary of his historic visit to the town in 1736. Reenactors portray various characters that were a part of the festivities and ceremony.

Dinner with the General

Saturday, February 10, 7pm - 9pm
You are invited to join the Darien Highlanders as they host a historic dinner for their most honorable guest, General James Oglethorpe. Authentic 18th century Scottish Cuisine will be served at this evening dinner held in the fort's soldiers' barracks.
\$30 per person RSVP

31522+0252

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

Call



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Darien, Georgia 31305
P.O. Box 1405
Lower Altamaha Historical Society, Inc.