

Altamaha Echoes

Lower Altamaha Historical Society Newsletter

September 2007

LAHS MEETING, Thursday, September 20, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

**Fort King George Historic Site
Dutch treat supper, 5:45 p.m. at B & J Pizza**

Our speaker, Dr. George A. Rogers, will be presenting a program on the Bartram Trail, and the travels of one of the first naturalists, William Bartram. In the 1770s, Bartram conducted an extensive survey through the southeast and Georgia in particular. One of his significant findings was the flowering evergreen shrub on the Altamaha near Fort Barrington.

Dr. Rogers has a Ph.D. from University of Illinois and taught at South Georgia Teachers College (now Georgia Southern College) for more than 30 years. He also taught one summer at Peabody College, Nashville, TN. He retired in 1983. His military service with the United States Army included First Army Combat service under Courtney Hodges and Occupation service with Fifteenth Army under George Patton. His research interests include Plant Hunters, Botanists and Their Plants in southeastern United States. Of particular interest to McIntosh County residents are two articles in his publication, "*Swamp Water and Wire Grass*" – 10. "Charging Head and Ring: Martial Spirit and Chivalry in Coastal Georgia," and 13. "The Mighty Altamaha River."

LAHS MEETING, Thursday, October 18, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

**Fort King George Historic Site
Dutch treat supper, 5:45 p.m. at B&J Pizza**

R. D. Gardner will be speaking on "*The Preservation of Historic Sites in McIntosh County - the current pressure by developers has increased the need for the identification of hundreds of historical sites in the county and the establishment of enforceable guidelines to preserve these sites as well as our natural resources.*"

Mr. Gardner was born in McIntosh County and is a descendant of the McIntosh family clan. He served with the military in Europe during World War II. He served two terms on the Darien City Council, two terms as County Commissioner, and an interim term on the Board of Education. For a number of years he was president of the Chemical Workers Union and was involved in the contract negotiations between the Union and the Corporation. He resides in McIntosh County with his wife Lavern Aldridge Gardner, housewife and writer of a book on McIntosh County. They are the parents of 6 sons. Mr. Gardner is currently working with Patricia Barefoot on the Chapman Report on Historic Sites.

LAHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, November 15, 2007 – 4:00 p.m.

Fort King George Historic Site
LAHS members are always welcome

LAHS MEETING, Thursday, November 15, 2007 – 7:00 p.m.

Fort King George Historic Site
Dutch treat supper, 5:45 p.m. at B&J Pizza

Jim Jordan's topic will be "*November 1860 Through January 1861: Georgia Steps Lightly Into Secession,*" a look at the political and economic factors in the south, and particularly Georgia, leading to secession.

We welcome back Jim as our speaker (*Saga of Slave Ship Wanderer*, March 2007). Jim is a member of LAHS as well as the Georgia Historic Society. He lectures at various historical societies and other organizations and recently published "*Savannah Grey,*" an historical novel about antebellum Georgia. Before moving to the low country some dozen 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. Jim and his wife Kathleen live in Okatie, SC.

LAHS CHRISTMAS COVERED DISH DINNER PARTY

Wednesday, December 12, 2007, 5:30 pm

Belvedere Island Plantation Clubhouse

Decorated for Christmas, the Belvedere Island Plantation Clubhouse will be the setting for the 2007 LAHS Christmas celebration. Howard and Jeanne Klippel will be our hosts for the evening. Maps will be available at the next three meetings with directions to the Clubhouse. You may also call the Klippels at 912-832-3318 for directions.

The entrée, table set-up, and drinks for the celebration will be provided. LAHS members are asked to bring a covered dish. Please come and enjoy great food and fellowship!



Darien Days, Saturday, November 10, 2007

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- Because attendance has been so good in past months and seating has been scarce, the Board voted to purchase 10 more chairs for the Fort.
- For those members that do not drive or have difficulty getting to the meeting, please call Harriet Roberson (912-265-6729) a couple of days prior to the meeting and she will arrange transportation to and from the meeting.
- WANTED: Anyone who has had experience in writing grants and would be interested in pursuing a grant possibility for LAHS, please call Harriet Roberson.

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(Georgia Historical Marker located on U.S. 17, 1.7 mile south of the South Newport River in South Newport, GA) - "**William Bartram Trail Historical Marker.**" *Deep South Region, William Bartram Trail, Traced 1773-1777. Donald McIntosh Welcomed William Bartram to his home in 1773, giving him shelter from 'A Tremendous Thunderstorm.'*

Living on the Georgia Tidewater – Excerpts from *Early Days on the Georgia Tidewater* by Buddy Sullivan:

In 1773, William Bartram embarked on a series of investigations that carried him through coastal Georgia and northeastern Florida. In his *Travels*, Bartram offers some notes on his exploration of the area that would become McIntosh County. The passage following relates to a visit by Bartram in the spring of 1773: *"The next morning . . . I set off for the settlements on the Alatamaha, still pursuing the high road for Fort Barrington, till towards noon, when I turned off to the left, following the road to Darien, a settlement on the river, twenty miles lower down, and near the coast. The fore part of this day's journey was pleasant, the plantations frequent, and the roads in tolerable good repair. But the country being now less cultivated, the roads became bad, pursuing my journey almost continually, through swamps and creeks, till night, when I lost my way; but coming up to a fence, I saw a glimmering light, which conducted me to a house, there I stayed all night . . . Early next morning , I set off again . . . towards Darien. I rode several miles through a high forest of pines, thinly growing on a level plain, which admitted an ample view, and a free circulation of air, to another swamp; and crossing a considerable branch of Sapello river (actually South Newport River), I then came to a small plantation by the side of another swamp: the people were remarkably civil and hospitable. The man's name was M'Intosh, a family of the first colony established in Georgia, under the conduct of General Oglethorpe . . . I was treated there with some excellent venison, and here found friendly and secure shelter from a tremendous thunderstorm...."*

"The tempest being over, I . . . took leave of my friends, and departed. The air was now cool and salubrious, and riding seven or eight miles, through a pine forest, I came to Sapello bridge, to which the salt tide flows. I here stopped . . . (then proceeded) to Mr. L M'Intosh's near the river . . ."

LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1405 – Darien, GA 31305

[www.loweraltamahistoricalociety.org](http://www.loweraltamahahistoricalociety.org)

LAHS Officers 2006-2008

President	Harriet Roberson	912-265-6729
Vice-President	Jack Godfrey	912-832-5622
Secretary	Elizabeth A. Ewing	912-832-5089
Treasurer	Kaye Traer	912-832-5150

2006-2008

Harry Clark
Howard Klippel
Carole Williams
Lamar Williamson

2007-2009

Jim Bruce
Mary Evelyn Hoffhaus
Dave Miller
Chris Milner

Past-President	Peyton Lingle
Director Emeritus	Buddy Sullivan

Committee Chairpersons

Ft. King George	Steven Smith
Membership	Jeanne Klippel
Programs	Howard Klippel
Scholarship	Ann Howard
Field Trips	Jean Hawkins
Altamaha "Echoes"	Carole Williams
Publications/Books	David Miller
Historian	Buddy Sullivan

Life Memberships

Muriel Bell	David Miller
Laura Berolzheimer	Chris & Ward Milner
Darien Telephone Co.	Bill & Sherry Minnich
Mrs. Caroline B. Davis	Everett Moriarty
John & Mary Dean	Myrtle Newberry
Enterprise Rent-A-Car	Frances Pollard
Lloyd Flanders	John Reehling
Gus & Marg Hallam	Jeff & Kelly Spratt
Bill Jones III	

Corporate Memberships:

Sapelo National Bank, William Parker, President
The Book Shop, Inc., Harold & Virginia Hicks
Coastal Georgia Historical Society
"The Lodge," Little St. Simons Island

FORT KING GEORGE STATE HISTORIC SITE

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

www.gastateparks.org/fortkinggeorge

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

Garrison Weekend

Saturday, September 22, 2007, 7pm – 9pm

Join the Garrison as our British officers dispute with a group of Spanish emissaries sent to protest the presence of Fort King George on the Altamaha River. An evening dinner with authentic colonial foods will also be served. **\$30 per person for the dinner. RSVP.**

The Haunted Garrison

Friday & Saturday, October 26 & 27, 2007, 7pm -10pm

Come visit the fort by candlelight for a night of ghoulish thrills and chills provided by the cursed soldiers of

Fort King George.

The Debatable Land Fall Encampment

Saturday, November 10, 2007, 10am – 5pm

A wide range of living history presentations will be given highlighting all the various cultures and peoples that inhabited our region before Georgia was established in the 1730s. A battle re-enactment will take place at 2pm.

A Colonial Christmas at Fort King George

Saturday, December 15, 2007, 7pm – 9pm

Join the garrison for a traditional dinner in the soldiers' barracks and an evening of colonial style Yule Tide merriment . **\$30 per person for the dinner. RSVP.**

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