

# Altamaha Echoes

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Lower Altamaha Historical Society Newsletter

July 2008

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*"The Mission of the Lower Altamaha Historical Society is to Preserve and Disseminate the History of McIntosh County."*

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2007-2008

At last June's picnic we watched the Fort King George film. At our picnic this May, we went to see our new LAHS ARCHIVES BUILDING. This facility is a climate-controlled, well-insulated (thanks to Chris Milner) 12x20 building on the grounds of Fort King George, by the maintenance shop. It houses all of our books, records, research, donated collections, genealogical information, reports, and papers. We opened for business the first Thursday in June of this year, and with a committee of volunteers, we are open from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. every Thursday. All persons are welcome to come and research, read, talk, visit, and just generally look through what we have. Use of the materials is "on site only." The project has been a year in the making and now we can all be proud of what has been accomplished here. We hope that the community and people near and far will take advantage of this wonderful resource.

In our programs this past year (set up by Howard Klippel): Curt Steger gave examples of the faith and character of Robert E. Lee; Dr. John Derden told of a Civil War Confederate prison for Union soldiers located near Millen, Georgia; R. D. Gardner, Chairman of the Historic Preservation Commission of McIntosh County, spoke about his goals; Jim Jordan explained the political and economic factors in the South that led to secession; Catherine Shuman, graduate student at GSU, told of Sunbury as a thriving port a century ago; Dr. William Harris, Jr., reviewed his newest book, "*Wassaw Sound*," a novel about the nuclear bomb buried there still; Robert Dunkerly spoke of the Scottish loyalists in South Carolina and Georgia, as part of the Fort's Scottish Heritage Days celebration; Jack Ferguson related many interesting tales of Benjamin Franklin as statesman, scientist, writer, and printer; and we heard from Ophelia Dent through the words of Sudy Leavy and her new book, "*Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation*."

Our money (from dues, book sales, a share of the city's hotel/motel tax, and gifts) paid for the Archives Building, supported Fort King George's Georgia Day activities, provided some additional chairs for the Fort's auditorium, reprinted Buddy Sullivan's "*Rice Grower*" book (which was sold out), purchased additional copies of Buddy Sullivan's "*Georgia: A State History*" (which was sold out), funded a donation to support the Blessing of the Fleet, funded our membership in the Chamber of Commerce, and provided the annual scholarship we present to a graduating senior at McIntosh County Academy.

Our website is "super." It is chock full of information ... LAHS history, newsletters, book list and info for ordering, membership information, our McIntosh historical markers and sites, Fort King George information, and links to other related sites of interest. It is a real treasure, thanks to Jim Bruce, our webmaster. You need to visit it often as he is continually updating and adding new things.

In late 2007, we lost Annie Gill, a dedicated, long-time member, former president, and ardent supporter of LAHS. She is sadly missed. Her son, Ralph Gill, has donated her rather extensive collection of books, papers and genealogical materials to the LAHS archives, for which we are most grateful.

Our books are still selling well, attendance at our meetings is good, a number of us enjoyed a trip to Leslie, Plains and Andersonville last fall, and several members attended a workshop to learn how to register oak trees into the Live Oak Society. We are continuing our wonderful working relationship with Fort King George thanks to Steven Smith, Superintendent. Our officers, board members, and committee chairmen are hard-working, dedicated LAHS members who give of their time and talent to keep this group alive and well. We need to give them our thanks and a round of applause, because we couldn't do without them. This was the second year of my presidency.

Harriet Roberson

**LAHS Meeting, Thursday, July 17, 2008, 7:00 p.m.**

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

As we enter the hurricane season, it is imperative that we review the preparedness objectives for our area. McIntosh County has survived the last several hurricanes, but in May the county was devastated by a high EF4 tornado, generating winds between 170 and 180 miles per hour. Cleanup appeared to be rapid and well organized.

A presentation will be made by Ray Parker, McIntosh County Emergency Management Agency Director; Boyd Gault, Chairman of McIntosh County Commissioners; and Luther Smart, McIntosh County Manager.

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**LAHS Meeting, Thursday, August 21, 2008, 7:00 p.m.**

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

Christy Crisp (*"Five Things You May Not Know About James Oglethorpe"*) returns with a new program entitled *"A Small Town On A Sand Hill: Savannah In the Eighteenth Century."* Focusing largely on Oglethorpe's city plan and its expansion throughout the eighteenth century, this Power Point presentation uses modern photos as well as maps and images from the collections of the Georgia Historical Society to trace the development of Georgia's First City from its founding in 1733 through the American Revolution and the years immediately afterward.

Ms. Crisp is Program Manager for the Georgia Historical Society. Much of her time at GHS is involved in managing the Georgia Historical Marker Program and statewide Affiliate Chapter Programs. She has a bachelors degree in international relations from Stamford University in Birmingham, Alabama, and a masters degree in history from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. A Georgia native, Christy grew up in Conyers. Before coming to the GHS in 2003, she worked for two years in historical interpretation at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello in Charlottesville, Virginia.

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**LAHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**Thursday, September 18, 2008, 4:00 p.m.**

**Fort King George Historic Site  
LAHS members are always welcome.**



**HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY  
JULY 4, 2008**

## LAHS Meeting, Thursday, September 18, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

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

Buddy Sullivan, Director Emeritus and Historian of LAHS, will present "A Historical Stroll Through Darien and McIntosh County," tying together the story of McIntosh County and coastal Georgia, and placing the history of the county and the coast in context within the history of the state of Georgia.

Buddy is a McIntosh County native and well-known coastal Georgia historian. He has been Manager of the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve since 1993. He is a frequent lecturer on the history and ecology of the coast and Georgia in general, and is the author of 15 books on a variety of historical subjects.

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### *News from the Board of Directors:*

- Everett Moriarty has volunteered to be our Hospitality Chairman for the coming year. He will be asking for volunteers to help him out each month . . . please speak up and do your part. Thanks.
- Work is being done on the wording of an amendment to our By-Laws. Currently, all officers are elected in the same year, which means they could all leave office in the same year. This arrangement isn't practical. The terms should be staggered just as the board members' terms are. The proposed change would have two officers being elected each year. We will have this ready for your vote by the end of the year.
- Buddy Sullivan is working on our application for a newly proposed Ashantilly historical marker. The GHS and LAHS will share the cost of this marker if it is approved. In conjunction with this, Buddy has written a booklet about the history of Ashantilly. The cost of publication of this book will be shared by LAHS and Ashantilly Center. The year 2009 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of LAHS. A special event will be held some time next year to dedicate the new marker, introduce the new book, and celebrate LAHS's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Ashantilly Center and LAHS will jointly sponsor this festivity at Ashantilly, a GHS member will attend the dedication, and our own Buddy Sullivan will be the speaker for this wonderful occasion which we hope will attract a very large crowd. More details to come.

*The Buddy Sullivan Scholarship Award was presented to Kelsey Kicklighter at the McIntosh County Academy awards night. She was one of twelve worthy applicants. Kelsey, the MCA Valedictorian, is an outstanding student who took a strenuous college prep program and also participated in band and both honor societies, tutored students, and was the recipient of many other awards. She has been accepted at the University of Georgia and will pursue a degree in psychology. LAHS sends its wishes for a successful college experience.*

**LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
P.O. Box 1405 - Darien, GA 31305  
[www.loweraltamahahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.loweraltamahahistoricalsociety.org)

**FORT KING GEORGE STATE HISTORIC SITE**  
P.O. Box 711 - Darien, GA 31305 ---- 912-437-4770  
[www.gastateparks.org/fortkinggeorge](http://www.gastateparks.org/fortkinggeorge)

**LAHS Officers 2006-2008**

President	Harriet Roberson	912-265-6729
Vice-President	Jack Godfrey	912-832-5622
Secretary	Dee Slagle	912-832-3746
Treasurer	Kaye Traer	912-832-5150

**2007-2009**

Jim Bruce  
Carol Churi  
Mary Evelyn Hoffhaus  
Chris Milner

**2008-2010**

Martha Carney  
Dan Good  
Betty Ewing  
Carole Williams

**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	Mary Evelyn Hoffhaus
Historian	Buddy Sullivan
Hospitality	Everett Moriarty
Webmaster	Jim Bruce
Archives	Carol Churi

**Life Memberships**

Muriel Bell	Bill Jones III
Marsha Certain	David Miller
Darien Telephone Co.	Chris & Ward Milner
Mrs. Caroline B. Davis	Bill & Sherry Minnich
John & Mary Dean	Frances Pollard
Enterprise Rent-A-Car	John Reehling
Lloyd Flanders	Jeff & Kelly Spratt
Gus & Marg Hallman	

**Honorary Memberships**

Mattie Gladstone  
Everett Moriarty  
Myrtle Newberry  
Isabel Mealing  
Lillian Schaitberger

**Corporate Memberships:**

Sapelo National Bank  
The Book Shop, Inc., Harold  
& Virginia Hicks  
Coastal GA Historical Society  
"The Lodge," Little St. Simons Is

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

**Cannons Across the Marsh**

*Saturday, July 5, 2008, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm*

*Join the Garrison for a day of artillery drills, musket firings and soldiers' life activities to honor Independence Day. Free watermelon and lemonade will be served.*

**Garrison Dinner**

*Saturday, September 20, 2008*

*7:00 pm - 9:00 pm*

*Join the Garrison as our British officers dispute with Spanish emissaries sent to protest the presence of Fort King George on the Altamaha River. An evening dinner and debate will take place. RSVP by September 16. \$30.00 per person.*



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St. Simons, Ga. 31522

Darien, Georgia 31305  
P.O. Box 1405

*Lower Altamaha Historical Society, Inc.*

